

Hafa Adai!

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**75¢**

# Saipan Tribune

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## ATISA cable ready for service

**T**AMUNING, GUAM—The ATISA submarine fiber optic cable of Docomo Pacific, Inc. is now ready for service.

In a statement yesterday, Docomo Pacific said that construction and end-to-end testing of its 183-mile ATISA submarine fiber optic cable system connecting Guam to the CNMI is now complete.

The CS *Responder* prepares the marine lay of Docomo Pacific's ATISA cable system at Tachonga Beach, Tinian on May 18, 2017.

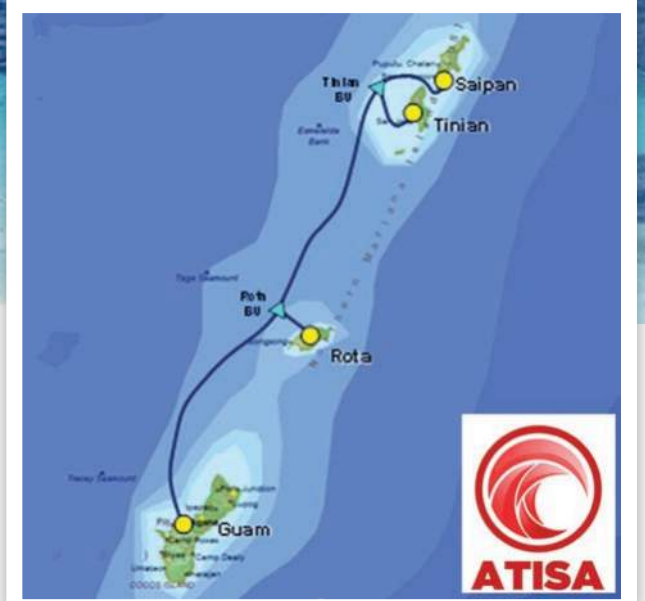
DOCOMO PACIFIC

The ATISA submarine cable (from the Chamorro word *atisa* meaning, "to illuminate, to accelerate"), which began with the signing of a supply contract in February 2016, was recently brought ashore and connected

to networks in Guam and on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The system will come online with an initial operating capacity of 200 Gigabits per second (Gbps) of bandwidth. As present-

**See ATISA on Page 4**



## MVA backs moratorium on new flights

By **BEA CABRERA**  
[bea\\_cabrera@saipantribune.com](mailto:bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority supports the Commonwealth Ports Authority's move to suspend new international flights to

the CNMI for 60 days.

The suspension is intended to give the CNMI government enough time to look at its infrastructure whether it can handle the influx of more tourists.

According to MVA managing

director Chris Concepcion, MVA "understands the position that the governor and Commonwealth Ports Authority had to take in implementing this 60-day moratorium on any new flights from

**See MVA on Page 4**



Concepcion

## Brush fire still raging on 2nd day

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

A brush fire at Wireless Ridge on Capital Hill that began on Tuesday was still raging yesterday, destroying about 80 acres of vegetation.

**» 80 acres of vegetation wiped out**

No house has been burned, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman

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The huge brushfire at Wireless Ridge on Capital Hill continues to rage on its second day yesterday, destroying 80 acres of vegetation.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



## Man gets 30 years in prison for sexual abuse of a minor

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Habitual offender Donald Ayuyu Hocog was resented yesterday to the maximum of 30 years in prison for sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl.

The 49-year-old Hocog was accused of abusing the girl starting when she was just 6 years old.

"This court has imposed the maximum sentence allowed by law...so that David Ayuyu Hocog will never hurt anyone anymore for the next 30 years," said Superior Court

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

Hocog is required to register as a sex offender.

The 30-year prison term is the same sentence that Camacho first imposed on Hocog in December 2013. Hocog had appealed his conviction and sentence.

In January 2016, the CNMI Supreme Court vacated Hocog's conviction for one charge and sentences for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and assault and battery. The high court vacated his conviction because it violated

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The CHC Volunteers Association board donates \$120,000 to CHC.

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Star Wars props are on the block.

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# Local

## SEDC draft seeks to extend CW program, bump up slots to 18K

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Strategic Economic Development Council, a group that consists of local business executives, met last Tuesday with lawmakers and represen-

tatives of the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to convey their take on the CW-1 issues plaguing the CNMI.

Included in the discussion were members of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., just formed early

this month and chaired by Alex Sablan.

The meeting proposed a draft bill that seeks to supplement Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) House Resolution 339.

In the draft bill presented to

local lawmakers, SEDC proposed that the end of the CW-1 transition period of Dec. 31, 2019, be extended to Dec. 31, 2029. The proposal includes boosting the number of CW-1 slots from the current 12,998 to 18,000.

The proposed bill also proposes to increase the supplemental education funding fee by \$50 and create a \$150 fee to fund the training, and employment of U.S.-eligible workers. A provision in HR 339 and the proposed SEDC bill bumps up the education funding fee to \$200.

A statement from the Torres administration praised the unified stance.

"Having members from the governor's administration, the congressional office, the Legislature, and the private sector in the same meeting underscores the importance of seeking viable solutions that address our labor and economic needs," Torres said.

"One of the points I brought

up is we've got to build up local capacity," said Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan). "We've had 10 years, what are we doing to build up the local capacity?"

"We need to prioritize and build our local capacity. [As lawmakers], what are we doing in terms of training the local workforce?" asked Propst, adding that vocational training facilities such as the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, Latte Training Academy, etc., have always been underfunded.

Since it was their first time to look at it, "we weren't really able to engage on an active discussion," said Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan). "I am appreciative that Alex Sablan and his group called us in and had a discussion over it. It is very important [for the CNMI]."

## Kilili announces \$2.5 million for Marianas fish and wildlife

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday that the Marianas is receiving \$1.3 million for wildlife and habitat restoration and another \$1.2 million for sportfish restoration projects. Congress authorized the annual funding. American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands all receive the same amount as the Marianas.

We hold our islands in trust for those who come after us," Sablan said. "We have a moral responsibility to make sure that what we leave behind is better than what was given to us. The funding that Congress is making available today will help us live up to that responsibility.

"But caring for, restoring, improving the lands and waters of our islands is not only for

the future," Sablan added. "We all benefit today from having a healthy environment."

The funds, which are distributed to the 50 states and to Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Marianas, come from excise taxes paid everywhere in the U.S. on firearms and ammunition, bows, sport fishing gear, boat engines, and fuel.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Acts set up the grant programs to promote projects to restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals and their habitat. They can also be used for projects that benefit public use, such as boat access development and maintenance, and for land acquisition. (PR)



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# OAG made to explain why it should not be sanctioned

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With just three business days before a jury trial, the Office of the Attorney General sought to have its case against a man accused of sexual abuse dismissed, prompting the judge to require an explanation from the OAG on why it should not be punished.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set a show-cause hearing today, Thursday, at 1:30pm, so that the OAG could explain why it should not be sanctioned.

Camacho also set a hearing today, Thursday, at 1:30pm on the OAG's motion to dismiss the case against David Blanco Santos. The OAG's request would allow the government to re-file the case in the future.

The jury trial was set for Monday, June 19.

In the government's motion to dismiss, assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio disclosed that the victim has expressed an inability to testify.

Tenorio said the government believes good cause exists to dismiss the case, given the extensive literature about

trauma experienced by victims of sexual assault after testifying at trial.

"Without the cooperation and testimony of the victim, the Commonwealth does not believe it can prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt," Tenorio said.

The prosecutor said that, while reserving its right to re-file charges in the event more evidence becomes available or future offenses involving Santos occur, the Commonwealth believes it is in the interest of justice to dismiss this case.

Camacho pointed out that

this case had two pretrial conferences and that last May 17, he asked the parties if there were any issues as to the discovery, witnesses, and exhibits. He was told there were no issues.

Camacho said that court marshals have already started serving jury summons. He noted that potential jurors have to make arrangements around their schedule to make time for the trial, such as babysitting, applying for work leave, and others.

Last May 15, Camacho denied the OAG's request to continue the trial set for June 19. He noted that the case was originally

filed in December 2016, which means that prior to filing charges, the OAG should have or would have reviewed the evidence, interviewed witnesses, etc.

Camacho said the jury summons are already in the process of being issued.

The judge pointed out that the Marshal Service Division needs at least four weeks to serve the jury summons.

Camacho added that the jury trial has already been reset once.

Last May 12, four weeks before the trial, Tenorio filed a motion to reset the trial, saying

Santos and the alleged victim had a recent death in the family. That request was denied.

The judge then ordered that the June 19 jury trial shall proceed.

Santos, 50, a former Department of Public Works employee, is charged with a count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and a count of disturbing the peace. He pleaded not guilty.

According to the information, Santos sexually abused the girl, on Aug. 2, 2016, when she was just 15 years old. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## Marianas banking bill passes US House

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) reports that legislation that would limit how many days banks can hold checks cashed in the Marianas or American Samoa has passed the House.

H.R. 385, which Sablan co-sponsored with Delegate Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-A. Samoa), was added to a larger bill, the Financial CHOICE Act of 2017, which the House passed on June 8.

"With today's electronic banking, most Marianas customers get access to their funds promptly," Sablan said. "But as long as federal banking law does not specifically include the Marianas, then people are at risk of not getting their money as quickly as they need it."

"I want to be sure that people in the Marianas are given the same protections as other Americans," he added.

H.R. 385 amends the Expedited Funds Availability Act to apply to American Samoa

and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Act sets out the maximum number of days that banks may hold checks before making payment.

For instance, funds deposited in a Marianas account by check from another local bank must be available within two business days. Funds deposited by check from a nonlocal bank must be available to withdraw within five business days.

"The current law does treat Alaska and offshore areas such as Hawaii and the other Pacific islands differently than mainland states," Sablan said. "Non-mainland banks get one extra day."

"But there is no good reason for treating the Marianas or American Samoa differently than Guam or Hawaii or Alaska. We all have 21<sup>st</sup> century banking technology, and it is time the law reflects that."

The Financial CHOICE Act was received in the Senate on Monday. *(PR)*

## CHECK OUT OUR YOUNGSTYLE SECTION

Introducing *Saipan Tribune's* newest section, YoungStyle.

*Saipan Tribune* recognizes the importance of young people as valuable members of the community and has created the YoungStyle section for our young readers. For kids, by kids.

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Find the **YoungStyle** section  
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# Celebrate Father's Day at Tony's Seafood

By BEA CABRERA  
bea\_cabrera@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

There's a new restaurant on Saipan and it promises dads the best Father's Day treat on Sunday.

Tony's Seafood started its soft operations last April, serving varieties of American, European, and Asian cuisine.

It promises to go full blast, however, this Sunday, June 18, just in time for the celebration of Father's Day, when the restaurant plans to have its grand opening.

Conveniently located in Garapan, Tony's Seafood promises unique specialties.

"Our dishes are unique because our specialties are created specifically for Tony's Seafood by executive chef Tony Alovera," said F&B manager Jeff Baltazar. "At the same time, customers will enjoy different varieties of food like seafood, steak, Japanese sashimi and rolls, sandwiches, pasta, and Chinese cuisine because we



Tony's Seafood Executive chef Tony Alovera invites the public to sample "five-star meals at reasonable prices."

BEA CABRERA

have our own Chinese chef."

For Sunday's grand opening and celebration of Father's Day, Tony's Seafood will have a special lunch and dinner grand buffet. Lunch buffet is from 11am to 2pm, while dinner buffet is from 5pm to 9pm.

"On Sunday enjoy the

special promo for local residents: For diners of two, one is free. On regular days, enjoy a local discount of 25 percent," said Baltazar.

Tony Seafood's executive chef, Alovera, is a household name on Saipan. He has worked with seven master chefs in Michelin restaurants

in Manila. He is behind the successes of restaurants on island such as Coffee Care, Shenanigan's, and Café at the Park.

Reservation is highly recommended. Call Tony's Seafood at 233-9966 or email them at [tonyseafoodsaipan@gmail.com](mailto:tonyseafoodsaipan@gmail.com).

## ATISA

From Page 1

ly designed, the total capacity of the ATISA system is 7.2 Terabits per second (Tbps).

According to its statement, the new cable will enable Docomo Pacific to provide connectivity services to its customers beginning today.

The telecommunications company said it is already providing high-speed internet connection to the Commonwealth Port Authority, which operates the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport.

ATISA also connects the CNMI to Guam, where local businesses and government agencies can connect to other systems, extending the cable's reach to the global internet.

Docomo Pacific selected Japan's NEC Corp. to design and build the cable.

Toru Kawauchi, general manager of NEC Corp.'s Submarine Network Division, said: It is our great honor that NEC has played a part in this significant achievement for the CNMI. I am so happy to share this special and exciting moment with our customers.

Since NEC is located in the Asia-Pacific region, we can always provide hope that our partnership will be further enhanced, and that we will help develop the CNMI region together, toward deepened mutual understanding and the fulfillment of human potential."

Docomo Pacific selected Ciena for its submarine GeoMesh solution, to deliver 100 Gbps wavelengths, and to facilitate new on-demand experiences for users. The Ciena solution can scale to support any communications requirements for the lifetime of the cable.

Ian Clarke, Ciena's vice president of Global Submarine Systems, said: "While businesses and consumers may not always notice or be aware of submarine networks like ATISA, they will quickly see the benefits this important network will bring. With Ciena's high-capacity GeoMesh solution, Docomo Pacific is making communications for the CNMI region more stable, more agile, and better able to support demand from exciting new services that will transform their way of life.

Ocean Specialists Inc., a

submarine fiber optic cable consulting firm, advised Docomo Pacific on ATISA and provided project management support.

Tony Mosley, OSI director of Asia-Pacific, said: "The Docomo Pacific team has worked with unwavering focus to bring the ATISA network into service. OSI is proud to have worked with them from day one across the full spectrum of business case, technical requirements and program management needs."

Docomo Pacific said that ATISA makes it possible for the company to offer the people of the CNMI the same products and services that are already available to Docomo's customers in Guam.

Jonathan Kriegel, Docomo Pacific president and CEO, said the company looks forward "to working with enterprise partners of all sizes in the CNMI and helping them to serve their customers faster and more effectively. We want to sincerely thank our associates, advisers, and suppliers who have worked tirelessly over the last year and half to make ATISA a reality.

"We would also like to

thank the CNMI government agencies, community partners, and especially the people of Rota, Saipan, and Tinian for welcoming this project and helping to bring it to completion.

"ATISA is a major investment in our families and community, and enables us to create one Marianas for everyone."

ATISA is now the second undersea cable in the CNMI and the first new system in nearly 20 years. The first one is owned by IT&E.

Docomo Pacific invested over \$16 million for the cable itself, and an additional \$9 million to modernize and expand its fixed and mobile networks in the CNMI.

Starting in August, Docomo Pacific's mobile, cable television, online, and home telephone services will become available to residential customers in the CNMI.

The new cable will reportedly offer expanded entertainment choices, faster internet speeds, and improved mobile coverage in the CNMI—at the same prices offered to Docomo Pacific's customers in Guam. *(Saipan Tribune)*

## MAN

From Page 1

double jeopardy. *Saipan Tribune* opted not to indicate the charge to protect the victim.

The high court also vacated defendant's sentences for sex abuse of a minor in the first degree and assault and battery because Camacho failed to order a presentence investigation report.

The high court remanded the case for resentencing.

At yesterday's resentencing, assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio recommended a sentence of 31 years for Hocog.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski, counsel for Hocog, recommended a sentence of 10 years in prison.

Camacho said the victim's statement shows that Hocog's crime continues to damage her—her sense of humiliation,

lack of trust in men, mental anguish, and fear that Hocog will be released and will find and kidnap her and her mother—and so something "bad" might happen to her.

"It is the hope of this court that, perhaps for the victim and her family, the healing can begin. Children are a blessing and the CNMI's most valuable treasure," Camacho said.

A jury found Hocog guilty of one count of sexual abuse of a

minor in the first degree. Camacho, who decided on the misdemeanor charges, also found him guilty of one count of assault and battery and another count.

Police said that on March 13, 2013, a Division of Youth Services representative interviewed the then-13-year-old girl who said that Hocog began sexually abusing her when she was just 6 years old. She said the last sexual abuse happened in 2011.



Enjoy the interiors and ambiance as you enter Tony's Seafood.

BEA CABRERA

## MVA

From Page 1

new airlines to the CNMI."

"The MVA commissioned a tourism sustainability study this year so we understand the need to have manageable and responsible growth in tourist arrivals," he added.

MVA data from January to April show that the number of CNMI tourists so far this year total 227,945. This is a 37.3-percent increase over the same period in 2016. The numbers continue to go up.

"The economy of the CNMI is growing too fast and we need to take a break and look at the situation. That is why we need to suspend new flights," said CPA board member Pete Reyes.

He pointed out that the CNMI is beginning to see tourists "walking on the streets, pulling their luggage, and looking for hotel accommodations."

"The tourists are now going into areas that may not be suitable for accommodation and we don't want that to happen," added Reyes.

The temporary suspension is a first in CNMI tourism history. It can also serve as a learning curve for the CNMI.

"The moratorium is just one method that will allow all stakeholders to get a grip on what's happening in the CNMI at this time. We have tremendous growth in arrivals year-over-year, and we've seen a proliferation of [bed-and-breakfasts], guest houses, and apartments-turned-apartelles, which are the result of having hotel

room inventory maxed out almost on a monthly basis," Concepcion said.

"The [flight suspension] may allow the hotel industry time to renovate their properties and ensure their facilities are up to date with international standards and for CPA to assess their infrastructure needs so they can plan appropriately for future expansion of the Saipan International Airport," Concepcion added.

The current international airlines will remain in status quo.

"The MVA is glad that this will not affect any airline currently serving the CNMI, which is critical. We are aware that it may send mixed signals to airlines who may be interested in flying to the CNMI but I'm sure CPA can handle that," Concepcion said.

Despite the suspension, MVA will continue its mission to promote the CNMI to travelers.

"We will continue to do our job to market the CNMI to the world. The MVA is concerned with anything and everything that affects the tourism industry. With that said, it's important that we all come together as stakeholders to ensure everyone do their part in handling what's within their jurisdiction," he said.

"Each stakeholder has their own responsibilities but at the end of the day we need to all come to a consensus on what's best for the CNMI long-term. It's highly critical that we all pitch in, work together and achieve balanced economic growth which ultimately will benefit everyone in the CNMI," Concepcion said.

## BRUSH

From Page 1

Derek Gersonde.

He said department members are in the area, keeping the fire under control.

"It's not uncontrollable," he added.

Firefighters just let the fire burn vegetation.

Fire engines, however, have been posted next to houses to prevent the blaze from burning structures.

Gersonde said firefighters are also on the lookout for little flying embers that land on roofs of houses that may start

spot fires.

Last week, DFEMS reported that a total of 30 brush fires have hit the CNMI in less than two months, destroying 106.75 acres of vegetation.

DFEMS records showed that as a result of those fires that occurred from April 10 to May 29, 2017, a total of 15,287 gallons of water was used. The department also spent 76.5 manpower hours.

Gersonde said the CNMI's dry season has only begun. He reminded the public that the best way to battle a grass fire is to prevent it from ever starting.



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**BRIDGE CAPITAL DONATION**

Last June 14, 2017, Bridge Capital donated a pool table for the use and benefit of the elderly in the *Man'amko* Saipan Center. Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, who mediated the donation, said, "Rita Reyes, president of *Man'amko* Center, wrote to my office asking for help if they can request for a pool table because the one that they have needed replacement. It was also the same time that I came across Shawn Scott, owner of Bridge Capital. I told him about the situation at the center and he said they will look into it right away. That's why we are all here today to receive the donation of pool table from Bridge Capital to our beloved *man'amko*." In the photo: Lt. Victor Hocog, Rita Reyes, Shawn Scott, Jody Jordahl, and Joe Guerrero from Bridge Capital with the elderly at the center.

BEA CABRERA

# PIEC focuses on island resilience

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kbaautista1222@gmail.com  
REPORTER

Adaptability and resilience to the changes that islands face today was the highlight of the first day of the three-day Pacific Islands Environmental Conference on Tuesday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

The keynote speaker during the first day of the conference, Roger Mark De Souza, highlighted the many changes that have been occurring on different islands.

It doesn't matter which island, according to De Souza, as every island has been fac-

ing something similar—rise in global temperatures, rising sea levels, and the melting caps of the Arctic.

De Souza said these disparate events will soon cause the submersion of many beautiful islands like the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Because of drastic changes in worldwide climates, cultures and traditions will be lost, he added.

However, because of these things that consistently happen on many islands, there may be a solution to possibly salvage the islands that are facing extinction.

"There is a possibility for

us islanders to be innovators," said De Souza, who is currently the director of population, environmental security, and resilience at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C.

He cited the case of Timor-Leste's *tara bandu*, a traditional law that is still implemented to control the use of natural resources.

According to De Souza, he has been working to understand the role of traditional knowledge and customs in response to climate change.

In his studies, De Souza has come across traditional knowledge, culture, customs, and traditions that could be

implemented in other islands that could possibly combat ecological challenges.

According to De Souza, more islanders are standing up for island resilience against climate change and recognizing their

limitations and coming up with new ways to approach climate risks and challenges.

In a later interview, De Souza said that, although help is needed, islanders aren't just asking for help. Islanders have been also using their resources to prove that they are not as vulnerable as they are thought

to be. According to De Souza, islanders have shown innovation in island resilience and others could possibly learn from these islands.

The conference is therefore a great opportunity to learn from different islands across the Pacific on different ways to combat climate change, he said.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Task and time management training today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions present "Task & Time Management," the second in the Chamber's "Customer Service Excellence" series of workshops for 2017. This seminar, to be handled by Jim Arenovski, will take place today, June 15, at the Chamber's conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315) from 9am to 12pm. Registration is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email [coordinator@saipanchamber.com](mailto:coordinator@saipanchamber.com). (PR)

### Garapan Fishing Dock red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Garapan Fishing Dock and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Samples collected from the Garapan Fishing Dock contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

### SSHS registration

Saipan Southern High School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Come to our main office and pick up registration forms. All requirements must be turned in. Call 664-4000/2 for any other information. (PR)

### Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at W-517 on June 15-16, from 9am to 3pm.

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- June 15, from 2pm to 9p.
- June 16, from 9:30am to 11pm
- June 17, from 10am to 11pm

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

### KHS registration

All parents and guardians of Kagman High School students are being informed that KHS is open for enrollment and accepting registrations all summer. It is ideal to get your registration submitted ASAP to get your child scheduled in the optimum classes they need to graduate! So far we have received less than 150 registrations from returning students. We have also received very few registration forms from incoming freshmen! Please don't delay, register your child for school today. Registration can be printed from <https://goo.gl/x2KvcL>. (PR)

### VA benefits counselor to visit Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration will be visiting Saipan. A VA benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA outreach clinic on June 28, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm, to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA outreach clinic is located at the MH II Building, Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. (PR)

### Comments sought on marine monument

The U.S. Department of the Interior secretary has been tasked by President Donald Trump under Executive Order 13792, issued on April 25, 2017, to conduct a review of national monuments. Public comments are being sought regarding the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. Deadline for comments is due July 10, 2017. To submit online comments, go to <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/05/11/2017-09490/review-of-certain-national-monuments-established-since-1996-notice-of-opportunity-for-public-comment>. Click on the "Submit a Formal Comment" green box on the right column. (PR)



## UNITED STATES Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



# NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting on June 29, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Fiesta Resort & Spa – Azucena Room.

## AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of June 29, 2017
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of December 29, 2016
- V. Action Items
  - a. Review & Approve the Renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement between CDD and CAMI – Trankilu Alternative Financing Program
- VI. Reports
  - a. Chairperson
  - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
  - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  - d. Executive Director
- VII. OLD Business
  - a. Office of the Public Auditor's Code of Ethics Presentation
  - b. VOICES of the CNMI – Tinian Chapter Update
- VIII. New Business
  - a. Youth Conference
  - b. CRSP Update – Volunteer Respite Program Webinar
  - c. Wellness Recovery Action Plan Seminar 1 and Peer Worker Training
  - d. A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities
- XI. Miscellaneous
- XII. Next Meeting
- XIII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Efren Nicholas  
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)





Asia Pacific Tournament in the Junior and Senior League divisions from July 22 to July 3. In the junior division, the CNMI will be pitted against Chinese-Taipei, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Guam. The senior leagues will have the CNMI, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Guam pitting against each other and the winners of the Saipan-hosted ASPAC will advance to the world series. (PR)

The Tinian Little League delegation poses with Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas and the Corporate Social Responsibility team of Imperial Pacific International.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC

## Imperial hosts dinner for Tinian Little League team

Members of the Tinian Little League delegation gathered for a special dinner hosted by Imperial Pacific International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility.

The Tinian Little League team competed in the 2017 CNMI District Tournament that kicked off last week, with Saipan, Tinian, and Rota slugging it out for the Asia-Pacific Regional Championships slot in the majors division.

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas joined the Tinian little league team and IPI-CSR during the special dinner that was held Friday evening at the Aquarius Beach.

"Hosting us [with this special dinner] is a reflection of [how] businesses are getting involved with youth and community functions," said Jovita Paulino of the Tinian Little League Association.

She said the dinner tendered

by Imperial Pacific is one less expense: "The funds reserved may be utilized for other necessities for the district tournament, such as much needed batting gloves or new cleats to replace an old, worn-out pair."

San Nicolas also encouraged the team to reach out to Imperial Pacific, citing how the largest private sector employer in the CNMI has been actively engaged in various community activities and events.

"The recommendation came from our mayor and the media coverage on Best Sunshine International-Imperial Pacific International's generous contributions to the CNMI were main factors why we have reached out to Imperial Pacific," Paulino disclosed.

"Thank you for your kind contributions during the 2017 Little League District Tournament," she added.

Saipan is also hosting the

## NMC offers NCLEX-RN exam prep course

The CNMI Area Health Education Center, through the Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute, is sponsoring a preparatory course for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses this summer.

To become a licensed nurse, candidates in the CNMI and in the U.S. mainland must first pass the NCLEX. To qualify for the course, students must have earned at least an associate degree in nursing. The deadline to enroll in this NCLEX-RN Preparatory Course is Friday, June 23, 2017, by 4pm.

The CNMI AHEC will subsidize this preparatory course for those who are residents of the CNMI (i.e., U.S. citizens and U.S. green card holders). Due to limited funding, the

subsidy will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. For those who do not qualify for a subsidy, the cost for the course is \$577.70. Students must submit a copy of their highest nursing degree and a valid, government-issued, photo ID (i.e. passport, driver's license, mayor's ID, etc.) for verification upon registration.

The course will be from June 28, 2017, to July 12, 2017, Monday to Friday (except holidays), from 8am to 12pm (four hours), for a total of 40 contact hours.

To register, students can visit the CDI office in Building P at the NMC Saipan campus, or contact Queanna Sablan, AHEC program manager, by phone at (670) 237-6809 or by email at queanna.sablan@marianas.edu. (NMC)

**TONY SEAFOOD**  
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**Grand Opening** June 18, 2017  
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**The Ultimate Grand Buffet Special**  
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<p><b>Lunch:</b> <b>\$25.95 • 11am – 2pm</b></p> <p>Menu: Soup and Salad Appetizers Sushi and Sashimi section Seafood Teppanyaki style section 14 Hot entrees Desserts Unlimited drinks: house wine, soda, juices &amp; iced tea</p>	<p><b>Dinner:</b> <b>\$49.95 • 6pm – 9pm</b></p> <p>Menu: Featuring: Prime Rib steak, Suckling Pig, Lobster, Crab, Oyster and Scallops Soup and Salad Appetizers Sushi and Sashimi section Seafood Teppanyaki style section 14 Hot entrees Desserts Unlimited drinks: house wine, soda, juices &amp; iced tea</p>
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Located at Beach Road Garapan, Tourist District  
For reservation, call **670-233-9966**



# MVA joins 2017 Hana International Travel Show

The Marianas Visitors Authority wowed the crowd at the 2017 Hana International Travel Show held this month in Gyeonggi province, Korea, presenting a giant, 360-degree virtual reality dome that was the first ever in the history of the Korean tourism industry.

Organized by Hana Tour, the major wholesaler in Korea, HITS gathered over 1,000 tourism authorities, airlines,

hotels, attractions, and other industry partners to introduce their products and services to business partners and interested travelers from the general public.

Hana Tour also offered its tour products at a special price at the fair, which attracted more than 100,000 people. Over 1,000 attendees booked Saipan package tours during the four-day event.

"The virtual reality dome

was a great success at HITS and was well received by both general consumers and travel trade partners," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "It was a unique and thrilling opportunity for them to be immersed in images from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

The MVA provided tour information and discussed promotional opportunities with Hana Tour branch agents on

the B2B day. During three days for consumers, the team introduced the Marianas as the best vacation destination by distributing mini-guidebooks and interacting directly with potential visitors. Also, the team showed a video of various activities, gourmet dining, festivals, and island attractions.

The MVA also conducted an SNS hashtag contest twice a day during the con-

sumer days. Visitors took photos at the photo zone inside the booth and posted them on their Instagram with the hashtags #ParadiseForEveryone and #MyMarianas.

Event participants are eligible to win an ICN-SPN roundtrip flight ticket for two people, department store vouchers, and Starbucks drink coupons. (MVA)



The Marianas Visitors Authority joined the Hana International Travel Show held in Gyeonggi province, Korea, on June 8-11, 2017. The event was attended by more than 100,000 participants.



Attendees of the Hana International Travel Show held in Gyeonggi province, Korea, on June 8-11, 2017, experience virtual reality images of the Marianas presented by the Marianas Visitors Authority. MVA

## June 16 next registration deadline for Tagaman

Tomorrow, June 16, is the next registration deadline for the 2017 Tagaman 51.50 Triathlon slated for June 24, 2017, on the island of Saipan.

Registration by June 16 will be \$150/solo and \$290/team. Registration after June 16 is \$180/solo and \$300/team. The last day to register is June 20.

So far, nearly 100 competitors from Korea, Russia, Japan, Hong Kong, Guam, Philippines, USA, and the Marianas have registered for the event.

Pro-athletes already confirmed to return are Kaon Cho of Korea, Alexandr Dorovskikh of Russia, and Joseph Miller of the Philippines. Newcomers in the pro women's field competing for the first time are Leanne Szeto and Tsang Ka Hung of Hong Kong, Manami Ijima of Guam, Maria Hodges of the U.S., and the Marianas' Emily Northrop.

The Tagaman Triathlon is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority, aimed at attracting visiting athletes and media coverage for the Marianas. Organization of this year's event has been contracted to Northern Marianas Cycling Federation, in cooperation with Triathlon Association of the CNMI.

This year's starting point and 1.5K swim leg will be Kanoa Resort Saipan, the official hotel of the event. Bikers will transition at Mina'chom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe and make the 40K bike course to Banzai and back. The 10K run will turn around at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

"Our next course this year

beginning at Kanoa Resort Saipan means the community will see more of the action at our transition areas in Susupe," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We ask the cooperation of all drivers to drive slowly next Saturday along the course route and to follow the directions given by traffic officers. That way, we can help ensure a safe event for the competitors."

Cash prizes await the Top 3 finishers in the women's and men's open categories: \$1,000 for first place, \$700 for second place, and \$500 for third place. Finisher medal awaits individuals and team once they cross the finish line and other medals for age group division will be awarded.

Platinum sponsors are Kanoa Resort & Spa, T Galleria, and Hyatt Regency Saipan. Gold sponsors are TanHoldings Corp., Islander Rent-a-Car, IT&E, Brabu Pharmacy, and MARPAC. Silver sponsors are Bridge Capital, LLC; Imperial Pacific International, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., Triple J Wholesale, and Marianas Medical Center. Bronze sponsors are Let's Go! Tour, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and RNV Forex. Event supporters include the Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Public Works (Road and Grounds), DPS Boating and Traffic, Division of Parks and Grounds, Marianas Health Services, Elliot Systems, and Hawaiian Rock Products.

For more information or to register, visit saipantriathlon.com. (MVA)



Among several marketing activities, the Marianas Visitors Authority conducted an SNS hashtag contest at the HANA International Travel Show on June 8-11, 2017, in Gyeonggi province, Korea.

## Andersen increases security at Northwest Field

**ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam**—Personnel from the 36th Security Forces Squadron will be working with the local authorities to increase security at Northwest Field. Increased security plans will include more presence patrols, newly installed security cameras near poaching areas, and security patrols with the Military Working Dog unit.

The increase in security measures is sometimes necessary during large construction projects. However,

Security Forces personnel report an increase in fence cutting at Northwest Field with as many as six incidents occurring in the last two weeks. Additionally, there have been three small brush fires both inside and outside the fencing area near Ritidian and the main gate.

Trespassing onto federal property is considered a federal offense and violators can be arrested, sentenced up to six months in prison, and fined up to \$5,000. Anyone found damaging or tres-

passing on military installation fencing or other federal property will be apprehended and released to the local authorities.

"We are asking the public to avoid base perimeter fencing and other restricted areas for their own safety," said Lt. Col. Michael J. Jewell, commander of the 36th Security Forces Squadron. "We have many assets at Northwest Field that require protection and we consider fence cutting a serious federal offense."

The base is also working

with village mayors to help inform the public about laws and regulations regarding trespassing on federal installations.

36th Wing Public Affairs is asking Guam media partners to use the attached broadcast anchor lead for television and radio broadcast news stories. Additionally, we have provided the following imagery and video footage for B-roll in news packages or for over-the-shoulder graphics.

For more information, contact 36th Wing Public Affairs at (671) 366-2228. (PR)



# 2017 KONFITMA Exercise





# Opinion

## Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### The heat is on

Conventional political wisdom is that the issue of climate change rarely, if ever, plays a role in elections. Yet opposition to President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Accord on climate change has been so broad and so loud that one has to wonder if Americans aren't prepared to abandon conventional wisdom. The volume of protest in communities from Pittsburgh (the city Trump twice claimed he was representing when he announced his decision) to Hawaii, which on June 6 became the first U.S. state to pass a law committing to the Paris agreement, has been breathtaking.

Even the conservative press, which has long been championing articles attempting to refute climate change science ("Climate change activists are the real science deniers," a National Review contributor opined just last month), have pivoted from claiming the Paris agreement was unwarranted to claiming it wasn't tough enough on countries other than the United States. "The Paris agreement had no teeth," proclaimed the June 7 headline in *The American Conservative*. The writer's complaint? "It was voluntary."

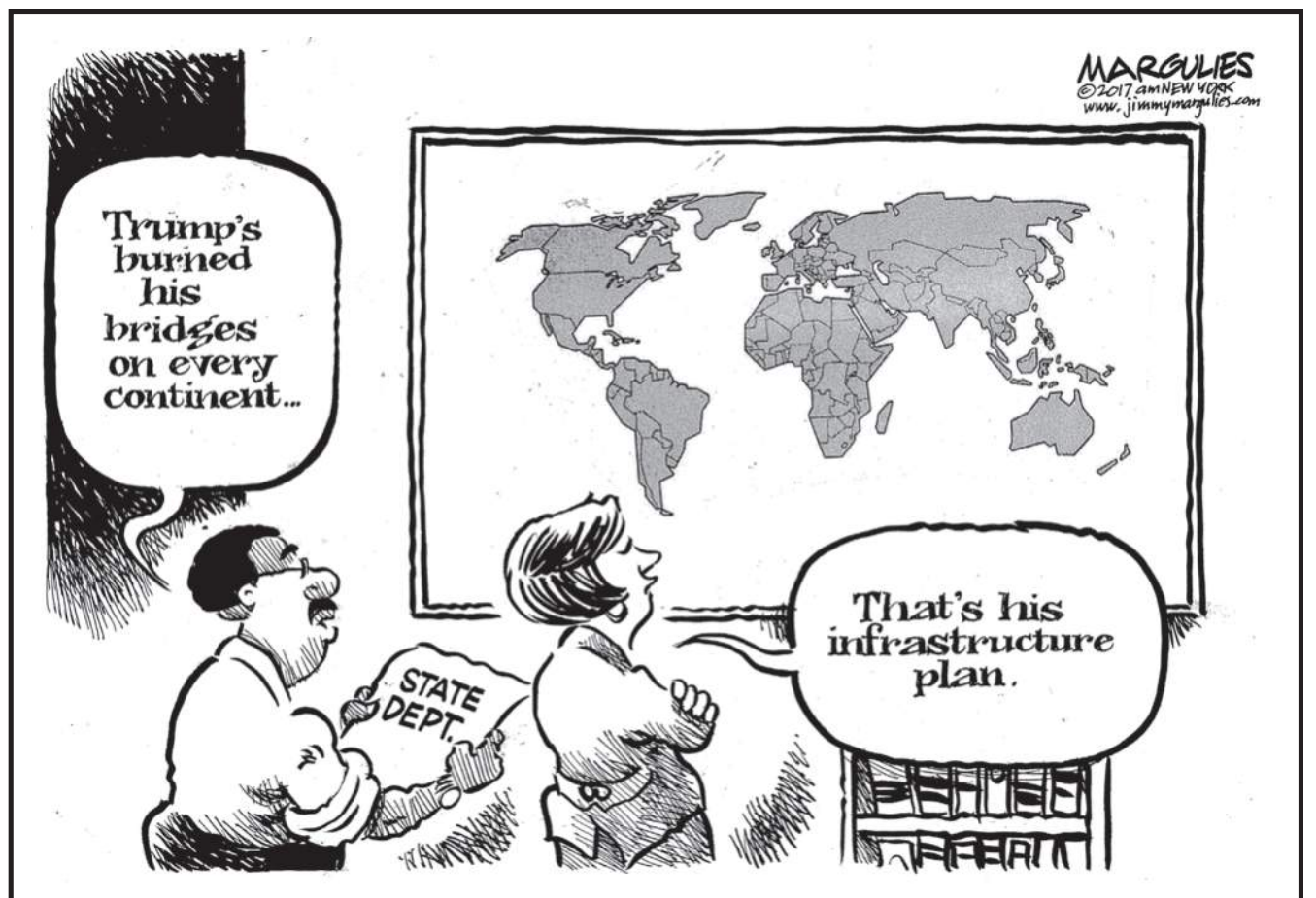
Horrors. The conservatives want tougher government regulations. Apparently, the right sees greenhouse gas emissions as the new equivalent of undocumented immigrants, and they're willing to see the appropriate walls erected as long as the U.S. isn't building the biggest one. Even on FoxNews.com, the debate isn't about climate but about whether the accord should have been ratified like a treaty. The accord "is being treated by many as a treaty with treaty obligations, but President (Barack) Obama never submitted it to Congress for passage," wrote Erick Erickson, a Fox News contributor. The argument is a bit like Woody Allen's joke about two women at a resort: "One of 'em says, 'Boy, the food at this place is really terrible.' The other one says, 'Yeah, I know; and such small portions.'"

President Trump's claim in his Rose Garden talk on climate change that research has suggested the Paris agreement would have a modest impact on global temperatures got a quick clarification from the scientists who actually wrote the study he cited. The MIT study from the Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change mentioned by Trump, writes John Reilly, the program's co-director in *The Washington Post*, actually shows how much the Paris agreement is needed to reduce the average temperature by 1 degree Celsius—which "may not sound like much" but is roughly equivalent to the last century and a half of warming.

Polls show a majority of Americans oppose a Paris withdrawal—the latest, a Reuters-Ipsos survey conducted in the first week of June, found 68 percent of Americans want the U.S. to lead the fight against climate change. Meanwhile, Trump's poll numbers are hitting an all-time low, a 34 percent approval rating from Quinnipiac University.

In other words, if Republicans aren't feeling some buyer's remorse over President Trump's poor decision with the Paris agreement on climate, they should be. Whether the heat will last until November of 2018 or beyond is the only remaining question. Even the White House won't spell out whether Trump believes in climate change science. His actions say he doesn't, but his poll numbers suggest he better get on board unless he wants to see his political clout melt away even further.

(c)2017 The Baltimore Sun



### Cosby an easy target

The Pennsylvania jury is deliberating, and all we know at this point is that no one will be happy when the verdict is returned.

We don't know the answer to the question "guilty or not guilty?" but we know that the words will not be enough to put an end, a coda, to one of the saddest stories that has been spun about a man who made us laugh. The debates, the doubts, the recriminations will go on long after the lawyers put their papers back in their briefcases and shuffle, slowly, out of the courtroom.

If I had my way, we'd never come to verdict on this case. The greatest damage has already been done, and that is the shattering of beloved myths and comforting relationships by the proxy of television and nostalgia. Bill Cosby is Cliff Huxtable, regardless of what the critics say. We are all made up of perception and reality, fact and fiction, aspiration and confirmation. It is ridiculous to argue that a man who was capable of creating the character that fathered a generation did not, at some deep level, possess those nurturing characteristics.

And yes, he is an adulterer who admitted to giving women drugs for sex. He has confessed in a secular confessional to betraying the trust of his wife, and perhaps of the women who considered him a mentor before he moved them to another spot on the sliding scale of human interaction. I'm not able to say, now, that he is completely good and that his legacy is one of pudding pops, gentle mugging and pitch-perfect tributes to a disappeared city on the edge of a cultural revolution.

It now includes Quaaludes, sex with women not his wife, and betrayal.

But I am allowed to refuse to believe that it includes rape. I am entitled, at least while this jury is out and well beyond, to craft a different narrative from the bits and pieces of complaints and testimony of women who waited years—decades—to come out of their own self-imposed shadows and say "me too, listen to me, too." I will be called a slut shamer, a cruel skeptic, the reason that rape victims hide their shame in silence.

I'm prepared for that, even after the verdict is announced, because I think this case is sui generis. There is too much of everything here, too many women reciting the same story (and instead of showing consistency, I think it could signal the mob effect.) Too many people willing to pull down a man who, because he

By **CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS**  
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at [cflowers1961@gmail.com](mailto:cflowers1961@gmail.com).



happened to say the taboo things that shamed young black men for living down to expectations, is considered a traitor to the race. Too many women who see in this an opportunity to exorcise the ghosts of all the meanness in the world, the assault on their presumed dignity, the Trump effect. This, I think, is the real reason so many people want to see a conviction: It will confirm that the world is a dangerous place for my gender, and get a condemnation, by proxy, of the patriarchy.

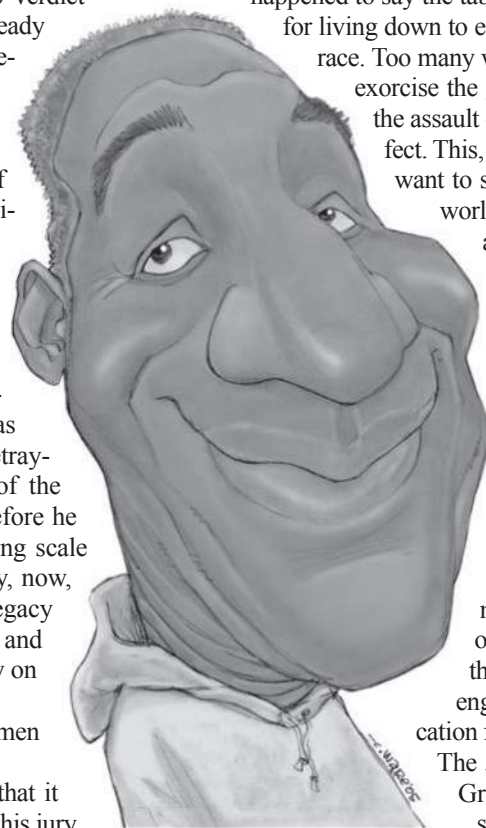
And that's my problem with this prosecution. Bill Cosby is an easy target, able to stand in for all the men who might have mistreated us in a distant past, and a cautionary tale to those college frat boys who might take advantage when we lie supine and drunk on the floor in the future.

After a year of leaked commentaries and conversation, evidence and prognostication, we are left with the words of one woman and one man, and yet it's as if the tidal wave of feminist history is set to engulf that one man as some kind of vindication for all the women who've been wronged. The 50 other accusers, like a finger-wagging Greek chorus in the back of the courtroom, stand in for the wronged women of the past. Gloria Allred leads them in righteous chant, and we look on.

It's not that I think Bill Cosby is a victim, here. He's lived a good life, and he's reaped the bounty of serendipity, hard work and just reward. Right place, right time, right stuff.

But I do hate these trials that pit an evolving societal ethic against a flawed human being, one person, albeit a person greatly privileged, to make a point that "we're better, because now we get it."

This type of proceeding, with breads and circuses and wailing choruses, shows we really haven't, after all.





**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Conspiracy theorist doesn't deserve platform

If you're of the mind, as I am, that NBC should not air Megyn Kelly's interview with Infowars conspiracy theorist Alex Jones during prime time on Father's Day, you can now sign a petition saying as much.

Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, wrote an open letter to Kelly on Monday afternoon calling her decision to give Jones a platform, "abjectly wrong and unethical." The letter includes a link to a petition denouncing the interview.

"Alex Jones is an infamous liar who makes a living preying on the pain of others," Watts writes. "He has said the bombings in Oklahoma City and at the Boston Marathon didn't happen. He said the shootings in Newtown, CT, Orlando, FL, and Aurora, CO, aren't real, and the victims' families are actors. He's said 9/11 was a false flag.

"His words have consequences," she continues. "Alex Jones's followers harass the families of mass shooting victims online and in-person. Alex Jones himself showed up at a Moms Demand Action event in Texas to harass the parents of shooting victims. It's gotten so bad that a woman harassing Sandy Hook families was recently jailed."

Late Monday, J.P. Morgan Chase announced it was pulling all TV and digital advertisements from NBC News until after Kelly's scheduled interview airs. Kristin Lemkau, Chase's chief marketing officer, tweeted Monday that she was "repulsed" that Kelly would give airtime to Jones.

Kelly defended the interview Sunday, tweeting, "POTUS's been on & praises @RealAlexJones' show. He's giving Infowars a WH press credential. Many don't know him; our job is 2 shine a light."

Watts disagrees. "Alex Jones has been in the spotlight for far too long," she writes. "It's time to turn that light off and let him crawl back under the refrigerator."

Others joining the chorus of criticism include Chelsea Clinton, Republican strategist Ana Navarro, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, dozens of family members of shooting victims and the New York Daily News, whose Tuesday front page reads: "He blamed U.S. for 9/11. He denied Sandy Hook massacre. Now NBC's Megyn Kelly will give conspiracy crackpot prime exposure on ... NUTWORK NEWS."

It would be easier to see the interview as an attempt to expose a malicious, underground movement (sunshine is the best disinfectant and all) if Jones didn't already have his own radio show,

By **HEIDI STEVENS**

Chicago Tribune



*Heidi Stevens is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may email her at hstevens@chicagotribune.com.*

Internet news site and the ear of the president of the United States.

A prime-time interview on a mainstream news show serves to legitimize him more than expose him. He's fully exposed as it is.

"As a journalist, it is incumbent on you to report on the facts—and on all sides of what's happening in our country today," Watts writes to Kelly. "As an American, you have an obligation to ensure your audience isn't misled by the opinions of a madman. As a mom, you must take care that your actions don't cause additional suffering to grieving parents who already have a load too big to bear."

I have to agree. The interview feels like a cynical, callous ratings grab. The show, if it goes on, might do well. But to be worth our time, it should also do good.

And I don't see how that's possible.

## Did American voters expect something else?

WASHINGTON—The minute the electoral vote was tallied and the winner of the presidential election was decided, the stage was set for the bizarre events that now jeopardize the integrity of that office.

Americans, through a system that seems utterly outdated in the modern world, had managed to choose a chief executive who not only isn't suited for the job but who has no concept of its limits. Untrained in nearly every aspect or understanding of democracy, the new occupant of the Oval Office, the most important space in the nation, obviously seems himself as a monarch with an all-powerful position.

Donald Trump, who ran a company in which he had the last word on every decision, has carried an imperial view with him as he seeks to change the face of government in almost revolutionary fashion. Accomplishing the extreme promises of his campaign would require obedience from every corner of the republic. Who said the government has three branches?

For Trump, "loyalty" is the key word when it comes to success. Apparently someone forgot to tell James Comey, the former FBI head fired by Trump.

Comey, in congressional testimony this past week, said Trump suggested he end an investigation into Trump's friend and former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, over his contacts

with Russian diplomats. It doesn't take a legal scholar to understand the inappropriateness of such a request. It was a clear effort to interfere with an official investigation and, at the very least, bordered on obstruction of justice.

Critics of Comey—I've been vocal over his mishandling of the Hillary Clinton email case—have rightly contended that rather than stare silently at the president after he made his audacious ask, Comey should have laid down the law and reminded Trump that the FBI is a wholly independent entity. Reminding the president that Richard Nixon's White House stay ended because of obstruction would not have been out of line.

Instead, Comey said, he quickly asked his immediate boss, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, to be a buffer between him and Trump and to notify the White House counsel there was a potential problem.

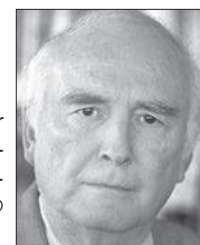
Sessions later recused himself from the Russian investigation. Comey also said his conversation with the president so bothered him that he left the White House and immediately made notes about the incident.

That's fine, but his failure to immediately halt the conversation is evidence of the same bad judgment he showed in the Clinton matter, which clearly impacted the election.

There's little doubt that Trump fails to grasp the balance of power and the sanctity of the legal process. His narcissistic ten-

By **DAN K. THOMASSON**

Tribune News Service



*Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at thomassondan@aol.com.*

dencies asserted themselves dramatically in this instance, the most important aspect of which is Comey's firing.

Though the president's spokespeople initially said Comey got axed because he had lost the confidence of his agents and was damaging the bureau, Trump himself has said the firing happened because of the Russia probe.

And while the president, being the president, has certain latitude to discuss or comment on things other officials cannot, the commander in chief cannot make requests aimed at impeding an investigation. Such acts could be considered corruption and could well lead to impeachment.

Trump firing Comey immediately after demanding his loyalty and directing him to go easy on "good guy" Flynn comes awfully close to fitting the description of a criminal act.

It's now up to the investigation of special counsel Robert Mueller to determine this and other facts in this scandalous affair.

## Many unwilling to make sacrifices for pollution reduction

About Trump's decision to back out of the Paris climate accord ...

It's true, as Jonathan Last explained in *The Weekly Standard*, "people seem to have forgotten that—aside from the foundational question of balancing carbon emissions, conservation, and economic development," the agreement was totally voluntary and also completely toothless.

"It allowed countries to set their own goals and then ostentatiously provided no consequences for countries which then failed to meet them," he wrote.

That means countries that meet or exceed their emission reduction goals lose out to those that don't, and there's nothing anybody can do about it.

Indeed, the agreement was carefully constructed to avoid congressional approval because its architects knew it would never have survived the Senate.

So they devised a plan to "name and shame" countries into cutting emissions through political pressure.

An international agreement without an enforcement mechanism isn't going to stand the test of time, especially when it's so easy for a subsequent administration to undo it.

That's just what happens, said *The Federalist's* Mary Katherine Ham, when you build a legacy "with a phone and a pen."

That said, Trump could have elected to take the agreement to Congress and forced Democratic senators in Trump-won states to take a difficult vote before the mid-terms.

Instead he chose to satisfy his campaign promise, mollify the most rabid segment of his base, and let's face it, antagonize his detractors more than a little bit.

Perhaps this is not so perplexing given his actions as president thus far.

What is truly baffling, though, is the reaction to Trump's decision by some on the political left.

Twitter was overcome with declarations of progressives lamenting how our nation's exit from the agreement is the nail in the coffin of our planet.

Last called the phenomenon "virtue signaling about virtue signaling," which seemed like an accurate description of the social media meltdown.

To be fair, Trump also received criticism from many in the business community and his action was even rebuked by former GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney.

Here's the thing, though. Many Americans (especially those active on Twitter) feel they are contributing significantly to the cause of fighting climate change by overreacting on the internet, buying a hybrid car or supporting unenforceable international accords.

But most are unwilling to make the kind of sacrifices that, if made collectively, would have a more significant impact on pollution reduction.

Megan McArdle made this point in a column some years back, writing how controlling carbon emissions will require significant sacrifice from everyone—and not "I drive a hybrid car and make

By **CYNTHIA M. ALLEN**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram



*Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.*

my own compost" kind of discomfort.

Heating and cooling, for example, are the largest components of residential carbon emissions. Thanks to our affinity for homes with high ceilings and lots of square footage and our intolerance of extreme heat or cold; we don't seem particularly willing to save the planet if the cost is our own comfort.

McArdle points out that lots of energy is spent today on machines (dishwashers, washing machines, dryers—even energy efficient ones) that do the manual labor once performed by women in the home. But who's willing to turn back on the clock on feminism?

And forget long-distant driving and air travel. If we can't walk or take public transport, we shouldn't go.

It's easy to howl about Paris. It's much harder to accept the reality that our current standards of living would have to drastically change to make any kind of significant difference in carbon emissions.

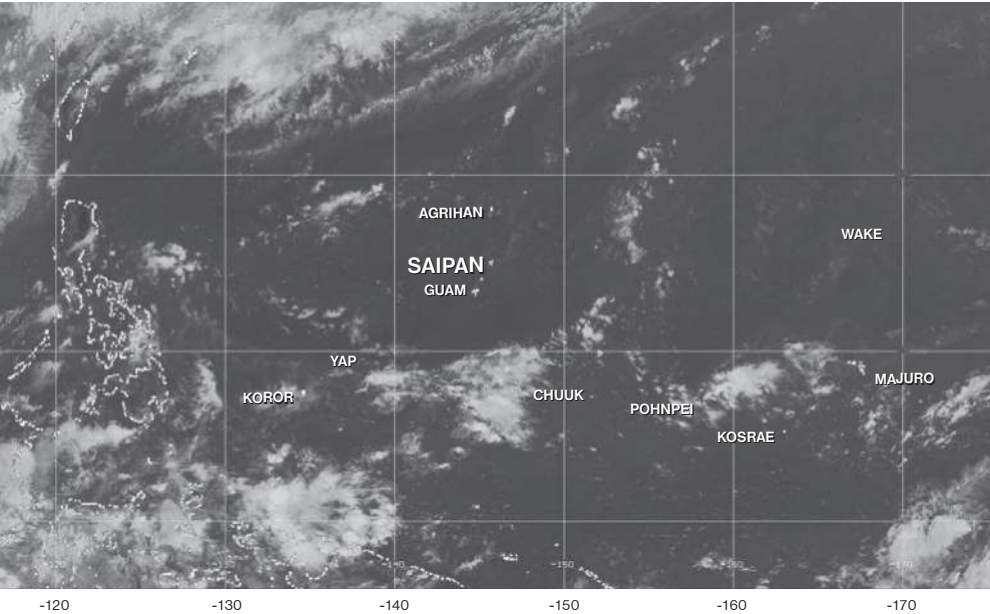


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:00 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes made to the forecast. A dry-season weather pattern remains in place over the Marianas. Models show little in the way of rainfall for the next few days with isolated showers expected at best. Rainfall accumulation is predicted to be less than a quarter of an inch through Friday. Deep later moisture increases a little over Friday night and Saturday with mostly cloudy skies expected. Models are not consistent in their depiction of rainfall coverage so expect showers to remain isolated at this time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	89   81 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	83   77 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	87   73 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85   80 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84   79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84   80 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86   81 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	63   53 °F
Beijing	Rain	85   73 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	87   81 °F
Honolulu	Mostly cloudy	82   72 °F
London	Sunny	74   54 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly sunny	77   60 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	87   77 °F
Melbourne	Cloudy	61   43 °F
Miami	Thunderstorms	85   77 °F
New York	Partly cloudy	72   60 °F
Osaka	Mostly sunny	84   66 °F
Paris	Sunny	84   54 °F
Pusan	Sunny	90   60 °F
Rome	Sunny	91   68 °F
Salem	Overcast	71   52 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	69   54 °F
Seoul	Sunny	83   62 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	76   64 °F
Washington, DC	Overcast	79   68 °F

### NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:03 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.88
6:00 AM	LOW TIDE		1.15
10:20 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.59
5:35 PM	LOW TIDE		-0.01

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:16 AM	11:08 PM
Friday	-	11:07 AM	11:51 PM
Saturday	-	11:59 AM	-
Sunday	12:34 AM	12:52 PM	-
Monday	1:18 AM	1:47 PM	-

#### NEWS DESK

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 14, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 5	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM	PR1571	9:10pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4	UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
				UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
				UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
				UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat





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# 22 Pacific graduates from leadership dev't program



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 2017 ELDP graduating class include (American Samoa) Jewel Tuiaosopo, Sapioamoa Galeai; (Chuuk) Crystal Angela Sana-Ekichy; (CNMI) Marjorie Anne Daria, Matthew Deleon Guerrero, Tracy Guerrero, Tracy Norita; (FSM) Elina Paul, Lover Haimin; (Guam) Ealani Flores, Jerrick Hernandez, Sophia Diaz; (Kosrae) Heidi Sigrah; (RMI) Anjanette Kattil, Junior Paul, Shem Livai; (Palau) Edolem Ikerdeu, Everdil Rechebei, Stephanie Nakamura, Sweetie Kalbesang; (Pohnpei) Joseph Saimon; and (Yap) Jonathan Francis Waayan Chugen.

**HONOLULU, Hawaii—** Twenty-two participants from throughout the U.S. affiliated insular areas represented the 2017 graduating class of the Executive Leadership Development Program. ELDP graduation ceremonies were held on June 9, 2017 at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The ELDP is funded by the U. S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and administered by the Graduate School USA's Pacific Islands Training Initiative.

The ELDP was designed to assist the insular areas with developing and retaining the qualified and skilled staff that will become the future leaders of their respective governments.

Program participants met four times over the past year to further develop their skills in leadership, management, government finance, program management, public policy and fiscal reform.

ELDP participants represent the governments of American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam,

Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

The ELDP participants met four times over the past year for one week of training in Guam, the CNMI, Marshall Islands, and Honolulu, Hawaii. During each phase of the program, participants heard from guest speakers that included Guam Justice Robert Torres, CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, RMI President Hilda Heine, and Rev. Francis X. Hezel, SJ, among others.

In addition to developing an Individual Development Plan, ELDP participants identified mentors who they met with throughout the year and took part in reading and group assignments between training sessions. A major component of the ELDP were group projects in the areas as health, education, environment, finance and budgeting and leadership, which participants developed throughout the year and presented on the final day.

The 2017 ELDP graduat-

ing class include: (American Samoa) Jewel Tuiaosopo, Sapioamoa Galeai; (Chuuk) Crystal Angela Sana-Ekichy; (CNMI) Marjorie Anne Daria, Matthew Deleon Guerrero, Tracy Guerrero, Tracy Norita; (FSM) Elina Paul, Lover Haimin; (Guam) Ealani Flores, Jerrick Hernandez, Sophia Diaz; (Kosrae) Heidi Sigrah; (RMI) Anjanette Kattil, Junior Paul, Shem Livai; (Palau) Edolem Ikerdeu, Everdil Rechebei, Stephanie Nakamura, Sweetie Kalbesang; (Pohnpei)

Joseph Saimon; (Yap) Jonathan Francis Waayan Chugen.

The 2017 ELDP graduating class represents the fifth ELDP program. Since its inception in 2008, 103 participants from across the Pacific have completed the ELDP program. Additional information on the Executive Leadership Development Program can be found online at <http://eldp.pitviti.org>. The application process for the sixth ELDP cohort is expected to begin in February 2018. **(PR)**

## CHC volunteers donate equipment to hospital

By **BEA CABRERA**  
bea\_cabbie@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Patients at the Commonwealth Health Center who have trouble eating or taking in medicines can thank the CHC Volunteers Association for its donation of an equipment that now enables the hospital to infuse necessary fluids into a patient's veins.

Yesterday, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. held a recognition program at the CHC gift shop for the CHC Volunteers Association to thank the group for its efforts.

The CHC Volunteers Association board had raised \$120,000 that it donated to CHC for the purchase of the special equipment called Alaris IV system.

The Alaris IV system is used in order to infuse fluids such as nutritional formulas and drugs directly into a patient's veins to substitute the traditional eating and ingesting of nutrients and medications for patients who are incapable of doing so.

Hospital administrator Jesse

Tudela said the corporation wrote the association to ask for its financial help around September last year.

"We met as a group with association president John Oliver Gonzales and they decided to donate \$120,000," said Tudela. "They donated in October 2016 and we immediately started the procurement process for the Alaris IV system and the device arrived in May this year."

"We did training for the nurses, including the pharmacy, toward the end of May on how to use the system. This device is currently being used in the ICU and neonatal ICU. We also deploy the device to the emergency room so if the person is a critical care patient that will end up in ICU, this device is utilized," Tudela added.

The Alaris IV system also serves as a safety net so there is less human error.

"We want to create a culture of human safety and reduce medical error which goes unnoticed when there is no safety



BEA CABRERA

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muna, Commonwealth Health Center administrator Jesse Tudela, CHC Volunteers Association president John Oliver Gonzalez, and the dedicated members of the CHC Volunteers Association pose with the donated medical equipment, Alaris IV system.

net. With this device, it covers all those points," Tudela said.

The CHC Volunteers Association raised the money from sales at the CHC gift shop, which the association runs inside CHC, and from other fundraising efforts.

"The CHC Volunteers Association has been a true part-

ner for our public hospital throughout the years," said CHC Volunteers Association president John Oliver Gonzalez said. "By working together, there is mutual benefit. We serve as the fundraising, public relations, [and] marketing arm of the government hospital. This way, we are able

to receive donations and public endowments to defray the costs of much needed equipment of the government hospital, above and over its public funding."

Medical equipment at CHC need to be updated. The hospital needs a total of \$600,000 to complete its overhaul of medi-

cal equipment. The association's donation alleviated that amount.

CHC CEO Esther Muna said, "We are very happy with the new equipment. It replaced the equipment that has been here since 1986. That's why today, we want to show our appreciation to the association."



## Business

# 11 states sue Trump's DOE over stalled energy-use limits

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—New York, California and nine other states sued the Trump administration Tuesday over its failure to finalize energy-use limits for portable air conditioners and other products.

The new standards would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save businesses and consumers billions of dollars, and conserve enough energy to power more than 19 million households for a year, but the U.S. Department of Energy has not met a requirement to publish them by now, according to attorneys general who filed the lawsuit against the DOE in federal court in San Francisco.

That means the standards are not legally enforceable.

"The Department of Energy is blocking common-sense energy efficiency standards. This is absurd," California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said in a statement announcing the suit. "The Trump Adminis-

tration should stop stalling and start following the law."

The other states in the lawsuit are: Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Vermont, Washington, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Oregon and Maryland. The City of New York is also a plaintiff.

The Energy Department said in an email that it does not comment on pending litigation.

The lawsuit comes as the Trump administration has moved to weaken or dismantle federal efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

It reversed President Barack Obama's moratorium on leasing federal lands for coal mining and withdrew a requirement for more emissions data from oil and gas facilities. It has also stopped tracking the federal government's carbon emissions.

The energy efficiency standards at issue in the lawsuit also cover walk-in coolers

and freezers, air compressors, commercial packaged boilers and uninterruptible power supplies. There is currently no federal energy standard for air compressors, uninterruptible power supplies or portable air conditioners, according to the lawsuit.

The Obama administration signed off on the energy efficiency standards for the products in December 2016 and posted them online for a 45-day review period intended to spot any errors. The DOE then had 30 days to submit the standards for publication, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit seeks a court order requiring the DOE to publish the new standards as final rules.

Environmental groups Earthjustice and the Natural Resources Defense Council filed a separate lawsuit on Tuesday that also aims to get the same energy efficiency standards published.

## Uber recommendations show company was 'out of control'

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—It's clear from former Attorney General Eric Holder's recommendations on how to fix Uber's dysfunctional management that the male-dominated company grew huge without even the most basic procedures to prevent sexual harassment, bullying and other bad behavior.

The 13-page document from Holder's firm Covington & Burling LLP released Tuesday exposes a startup-turned-goliath that permitted misconduct, had few policies to protect employees and ran with little board supervision.

The recommendations, adopted unanimously by Uber's board, show clearly that the next version of Uber, called 2.0 by CEO co-founder Travis Kalanick, will have to be much different from the free-wheeling company that flouted regulations and disrupted the taxi business to become the world's largest ride-hailing company.

Kalanick told employees Tuesday that he'd be taking an indefinite leave of absence.

And in another strange twist, board member and hedge fund partner David Bonderman resigned Tuesday night after making what he called an inappropriate remark about women at a meeting to explain Holder's recommendations to employees.

The Holder investigation started after former engineer

Susan Fowler posted a blog in February detailing harassment during the year she spent at Uber, writing that she was propositioned by her manager on her first day with an engineering team. She reported him to human resources, but was told he would get a lecture and no further punishment because he was a "high performer," she wrote.

After interviewing 200 witnesses, Holder had to make such basic recommendations as setting clear policies to protect workers from harassment, and that the human resources department get a better handle on keeping records and tracking employee complaints. It even suggests such simple procedures as using performance reviews to hold leaders accountable and requiring all employees to turn in receipts so the company can make sure expenses match its values.

The recommendations "definitely paint a picture of a company that was out of control and pretty chaotic," says Elizabeth Ames, a senior vice president at the Anita Borg Institute, a nonprofit aimed at advancing women in the technology business.

Holder also suggests that Uber change its written cultural values to promote positive behavior, inclusion and collaboration. The company should eliminate values that justified poor behavior, such as

"Always Be Hustlin'," "Meritocracy and Toe-Stepping" and "Principled Confrontation."

Holder also called for trimming Kalanick's job duties, shifting day-to-day functions to a yet-to-be-hired chief operating officer. During Kalanick's leave, his leadership team will run the troubled company.

Kalanick wrote that he needs time off to grieve for his mother, who died in a May boating accident. He also said he's responsible for the company's situation and needs to become a better leader—echoing comments the 40-year-old CEO made earlier this year after a heated argument with an Uber driver over pay was captured on video.

Ames said the recommendations were strong but indicated Uber had few policies, and the ones it had were not followed.

The board unanimously approved the recommendations on Sunday, including a suggestion that a senior executive be tasked with making sure they are implemented. Apparently because of distrust of some leaders, Holder recommended that care be taken to make sure the executive "is viewed positively by the employees."

The company released only Holder's recommendations, not his full report, citing the need to protect employees who complained.

## Nation

# Sessions vigorously denies improper Russia contacts

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Attorney General Jeff Sessions heatedly denied on Tuesday having an undisclosed meeting with Russia's ambassador to the U.S. and declared it was a "detestable and appalling lie" to suggest he was aware of or took part in any collusion between Russia and the election campaign that sent Donald Trump to the White House.

Testifying at a packed Senate hearing, Sessions, who was a close Trump adviser during the battle for the presidency, also rejected any idea of misconduct in the ouster of FBI Director James Comey and vowed to defend his honor "against scurrilous and false allegations."

In his dramatic appearance before former colleagues, Sessions contradicted a contention made by Comey at a hearing before the same panel last week. Comey told the intelligence committee that, after an encounter with President Trump in which he said Trump pressured him to back off an investigation into the former national security adviser, Comey implored Sessions to make sure he was never left alone with the president again—but Sessions didn't respond.

"He didn't recall this, but I responded to his comment by agreeing that the



AP

Attorney General Jeff Sessions is sworn-in on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, June 13, 2017, prior to testifying before the Senate Intelligence Committee hearing about his role in the firing of James Comey, his Russian contacts during the campaign and his decision to recuse from an investigation into possible ties between Moscow and associates of President Donald Trump.

FBI and Department of Justice needed to be careful to follow department policy regarding appropriate contacts with the White House," Sessions said.

The former Alabama senator also defended himself against accusations that he misrepresented himself during his confirmation hearing when he said he hadn't met with Russian officials during the campaign. Sessions argued that in the context of that hearing, "my answer was a fair and correct response to the charge as I understood it."

The attorney general stepped aside from the Justice Department probe into

Russian meddling in the campaign on March 2, the day after The Washington Post reported on two previously undisclosed meetings with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. Days after that, Sessions also corrected his confirmation hearing testimony to inform the committee about his two meetings with Kislyak.

Ahead of the hearing there had been suggestions that Sessions might have had a third, unreported encounter with Kislyak in April 2016, at Washington's Mayflower Hotel, where candidate Trump was giving his first major foreign policy speech.

## Congressional Democrats sue Trump over foreign payments

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Democratic lawmakers are suing President Donald Trump over foreign money flowing into his global business empire.

Almost 200 senators and representatives are plaintiffs in a lawsuit alleging Trump is violating the so-called emoluments clause of the Constitution. It's being filed early Wednesday in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the lawmakers said.

The plaintiffs argue they have standing to sue because the clause says only Congress may approve foreign gifts and payments.

"The framers gave Congress a unique role, a unique right and responsibility," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Connecticut Democrat who helped organize the lawsuit.

Although Trump turned over control of his real estate development, management and marketing company to

his adult sons and a senior executive, he did not divest from it. That means he stands to benefit financially from the Trump Organization's profits, including from foreign governments.

Since he's become president, the Trump Organization has secured dozens of potentially valuable patents, including in China, and collected fees from lobbyists working for Saudi Arabia and other countries using his properties.

The new suit—the third of its kind—says the full scope of foreign payments to the Trump Organization cannot be known because the president has not made public his tax returns.

Earlier this week, two Democratic attorneys general filed a similar claim. Days after Trump's inauguration in January, a liberal-funded government watchdog filed an emoluments lawsuit. A

restaurant group and two individuals in the hotel industry later joined as co-plaintiffs.

Trump and the Justice Department have called these lawsuits baseless. They argue the clause isn't intended to prevent normal business such as hotel payments and real estate transactions.

Rep. John Conyers, a Michigan Democrat, said he and Blumenthal have amassed the "greatest number of congressional plaintiffs on any lawsuit against a president." He said they're taking the action "not out of any sense of pleasure or partisanship but because President Trump has left us with no other option."

Ahead of the filing, only Democrats were asked to sign on, but Blumenthal and Conyers plan to send letters to their Republican colleagues Wednesday asking them to join the effort.



# Asia

## Advanced knowledge of siege

**MARAWI, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine government learned days in advance of a plan by militants aligned with the Islamic State group to lay siege to a southern city and staged an army raid on a militant hideout that prevented a bigger and deadlier attack, officials said Tuesday.

Solicitor General Jose Calida said in a report that the government received intelligence information at least five days before the militants prematurely launched their bloody assault on Marawi city on May 23 after government forces raided the hideout of militant leaders led by Isnilon Hapilon.

Army troops failed to capture Hapilon in the raid, which sparked a gunbattle in a Marawi village, but military officials said the assault forced the gunmen to prematurely start their attack aimed at occupying the Islamic city of more than 200,000 people. The rebel plan was to launch the attack on May 26 or 27, the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in the country's south.

"Specifically, on 18 May 2017, intelligence reports revealed that the ISIS-inspired local rebel groups were planning to occupy Marawi city, and to raise the ISIS flag at the provincial capitol," Calida said in a report to the Supreme Court, using an acronym for the Islamic State group.

"The said attack would have served as the precursor

for other rebel groups to stage their own uprisings across Mindanao in a bid to simultaneously establish a wilayah in the region," Calida said, referring to the southern Philippine region and the Islamic State province the militants aimed to create there.

Calida defended President Rodrigo Duterte's decision to declare martial law in the entire southern Mindanao region to deal with the Marawi crisis. Opponents have questioned the grounds cited by Duterte for the martial law declaration and asked the Supreme Court to invalidate his action.

Asked why the government failed to stop the Marawi siege despite its advance knowledge of the plot, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the intelligence information was still being vetted, but the military nevertheless planned a raid on the hideout of Hapilon and other militants behind the plot.

"From our point of view, we were able to stop something that could have been much, much bigger," Abella told a news conference.

Abella was also asked why top security officials led by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. joined Duterte in a trip to Russia around the time the government received information about the planned Marawi attack. "They were all on top of the situation. They were actually monitoring everything,"

Abella said.

When the military managed to verify some of the details of the plot, it staged the raid on Hapilon's hideout, military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said. He acknowledged, however, that the military was unaware of the number of armed fighters the plotters could muster.

In his report, Calida said "about 500 rebels marched along the main streets of Marawi and swiftly occupied strategic positions throughout the city" on May 23, adding that the gunmen had "strong combat capability, and seemingly limitless firepower and other resources."

Army Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, a regional military commander, said 150 to 200 gunmen have been isolated in four of Marawi's 96 villages, and dozens of militant snipers have been killed, setting back the militants' lethal firepower three weeks after the bloody siege began.

With the remaining gunmen contained in just a few villages, Padilla said "the worst is over" in Marawi, but added that it was difficult to say when the government could regain full control of the devastated city.

Perched on buildings, some connected by tunnels that gave them mobility, the snipers have made it difficult for troops to wrest back areas under the rebels' control. The gunmen have also used civilian hostages as human shields, Galvez said.

gust, Akihito indirectly expressed his wish to abdicate, saying his age and health might start limiting his ability to fulfill his duties. No specific dates have been announced, but officials are reportedly eyeing an abdication at the end of 2018, when Akihito turns 85 and his reign is in its 30th year. Akihito would be the first emperor to abdicate in 200 years. Naruhito said he understands and respects his father's feelings.

### China reasserts hard line on Taiwan after Panama's switch

**BEIJING** (AP)—China is reasserting its hard line on Taiwan following Panama's switching of diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing. Spokesman for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office Ma Xiaoguang told reporters Wednesday that there could be no deviation from Beijing's insistence that Taiwan recognize it's part of China. The move by Panama this week was the clearest sign yet of China's drive to increase pressure on Taiwan's independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen. Tsai's ruling Democratic Progressive Party says it wants stable relations with Beijing but hasn't endorsed the "one China" principle. Beijing cut ties with Tsai's government a year ago and has been steadily ratcheting up both diplomatic and economic pressure. The sides split amid civil war in 1949, and Beijing insists only it has the right to represent China in international society.

# World

## Iraq says food poisoning strikes hundreds at camp for displaced

**HASSAN SHAM U2 CAMP, Iraq** (AP)—Food poisoning at a camp for displaced residents of Mosul has made more than 700 people sick, with hundreds hospitalized, Iraqi officials said Tuesday.

The incident at the Hassan Sham U2 camp, about 20 kilometers (13 miles) east of Mosul, has become part of the ongoing dispute between Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Saudi media accused a Qatari charity of supplying tainted food to the residents of the desert camp.

Iraqi Health Minister Adila Hamoud told The Associated Press that 752 people in the camp became ill following a Monday night iftar—the meal breaking the dawn-to-dusk fast by Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan. At least 300 people remain in serious condition, he said.

The Health Ministry reported that no one had died from food poisoning. Two deaths cited earlier were from other causes. The provincial governor said there had been one death. The U.N. refugee agency at first reported one death but later said nobody had died. The conflicting reports could not immediately be reconciled.

Amira Abdulhaliq of the UNHCR said it was unclear when the meals had become contaminated, whether it was during its preparation,



Source: AP, OpenStreetMap, Mapbox  
Graphic: Los Angeles Times/TNS

packaging, transportation or distribution.

"So far, we have received around 800 cases. Around 200 have been transported to the hospitals in Irbil," she said.

Irbil Gov. Nawzad Hadi said the food was prepared in an Irbil restaurant by a local NGO, Ain el Muhtaj, and funded by a Qatari charity known as RAF. In Saudi Arabia, which has been leading a recent campaign to isolate Qatar, state media quickly seized on the issue with coverage that implied Qatar was poisoning refugees deliberately.

On Twitter, Saudi state television accused RAF of supplying tainted meals and posted images it said showed the camp's children "poisoned by the terrorist Qatari RAF organization."

An Iraqi lawmaker who visited the camp overnight also accused the Qatari charity of providing the tainted food.

At midday Tuesday, medics were treating patients in a large tent at the edge of the camp. About 20-30 patients, mostly children, lay on blankets on the floor as several more serious cases were taken away in ambulances. Most were suffering from stomach cramps and dehydration resulting from vomiting and diarrhea.

Raad al-Dahlaki, chairman of the Iraqi parliament's immigration and displacement committee, visited the camp overnight and said the meal contained rice, a bean sauce, meat, yogurt and water. He put the number of sick at 850.

Al-Dahlaki said the food was distributed by RAF, adding that Iraqi officials were to meet those from the organization later Tuesday. The Doha-based charity did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

At a joint news conference in the camp, Irbil Police Chief Abdulhaleq Talaat said seven people were arrested in connection with the incident.

Since a diplomatic crisis between Qatar and other Arab nations led by Saudi Arabia began June 5, Arab media across the greater Persian Gulf have unleashed a daily barrage of reports highly critical of Qatar. Those reports include stories that alleged Qatar has tried to undermine regional security, often presented without attribution or evidence.

## Firefighters battle massive blaze in London high-rise

**LONDON** (AP)—Firefighters battled a massive fire in a 27-floor high-rise apartment building in west London for several hours Wednesday.

London's Metropolitan Police said a number of people were being treated for a range of injuries, but did not provide more specifics. London Mayor Sadiq Khan said on Twitter that a major incident had been declared.

Flames and smoke were still shooting from the windows of the Grenfell Tower in North Kensington more than four hours after the blaze started around 1 a.m. London time. It was not clear if there were residents trapped, but people at the scene spoke of not being able to reach friends and family who had been inside.

Nassima Boutrig, who lives opposite the building, said she was awakened by si-

rens and smoke so thick that it filled her home as well.

"We saw the people screaming," she said. "A lot of people said 'Help, help, help.' The fire brigade could only help downstairs. It was fire up, up, up. They couldn't stop the fire."

Boutrig said her friend's brother, wife and children lived in the building and that her friend was waiting to find out if they were OK.

The London Fire Brigade said 45 fire engines and 200 firefighters were called to the scene and Assistant Fire Commissioner Dan Daly said it was a large and very serious incident.

"Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus are working extremely hard in very difficult conditions to tackle this fire," he said in a post on the brigade's Facebook page.

Once the sun rose, smoke

could be seen from miles away.

George Clarke, the presenter of "Amazing Spaces," told Radio 5 Live he was covered in ash even though he was 100 meters (yards) from the scene.

He said he saw people waving flashlights from the top levels of the building and saw rescuers "doing an incredible job" trying to get people out.

Tim Downie, who lives not far away, told Britain's Press Association that he feared the building could collapse. He said he heard sirens, helicopters and shouting and then saw the building engulfed in flames.

"It's the most terrifying thing I've ever seen. I just hope they have got everyone out," he said. "People have been bringing water, clothes, anything they've got to help, out to the cordon."

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Death toll in Bangladesh landslides rises to 132

**DHAKA, Bangladesh** (AP)—The death toll from massive landslides triggered by heavy rains rose to 132 on Wednesday with firefighters, police and soldiers struggling to reach the remote southeastern districts to distribute aid, officials said. It was not clear yet if any villagers were still missing after large chunks of mud swept over thatched homes and settlements in three hilly districts on Tuesday, a day after heavy rains began across the country because of the influence of a depression in the Bay of Bengal. After an overnight halt in the search and rescue operation, rescuers resumed Wednesday morning, said Reaz Ahmed, a senior official of the Disaster Management Ministry. Military spokesman Rezaul Karim said Tuesday that several soldiers were killed and five injured while clearing debris and mud from a highway.

#### Japan crown prince vows to be devoted emperor like father

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito pledged Tuesday to devote himself to the role of emperor, like his father, when he assumes the Chrysanthemum Throne. "I will devote myself body and soul to every single duty," Naruhito said. Japan's parliament passed a special law last Friday allowing current Emperor Akihito to abdicate within three years. Last Au-



# Environment

By JENNY STALETOVICH  
MIAMI HERALD

**MIAMI**—Every year when summer temperatures sizzle and the rest of South Florida heads inside, a dedicated crew of citizen scientists ventures into the buggy heat to do an increasingly difficult job: count butterflies.

For the last quarter of a century, the North American Butterfly Association has tallied the nation's population of butterflies three times a year, including the Fourth of July butterfly count now occurring in Florida through July. But across the nation, and particularly in Florida, finding butterflies to count is getting more difficult as habitats continue to vanish and climate change makes butterflies brief lives ever more perilous.

"Every single day there are fewer butterflies in the United States than there were the day before. You don't have to be a genius to figure it out," said geneticist Jeffrey Glassberg, NABA's president and founder.

Nowhere is that more evident than among more specialized butterflies, like the many imperiled in South Florida, that live on an ecological razor's edge balanced between their dependency on particular plants and fragmented populations. Of the 160 to 180 species found in the state, about two dozen are in trouble, among the highest concentration of threatened butterflies in the U.S. Now impacts from climate change — increased temperatures or sea rise that threaten host plants — may be driving them closer to the edge.

"Once upon a time I wasn't happy unless we (counted) 50 species," said wildlife biologist and butterfly expert Mark Salvato, who for the last 15 years has organized counts from Key West to Jacksonville. "Last year, I had 32."

The count is modeled on the National Audubon Society's popular Christmas Day Bird Count and started in the 1970s by the California-based Xerces Society, which works to protect pollinators. NABA took over in 1993, a year after the organization was formed. The counts are organized around 15-mile wide circles and are often conducted in the same locations — Key West, Key Largo, Homestead or Coral Gables — to provide some consistency.

Linda Cooper, who drives from Orlando every year to help run counts in Key Largo and Homestead, said locations are selected for reliable habitat, meaning preserves, state



A Zebra Heliconian, the Florida State Butterfly, in south Miami-Dade County on May 20, 2017.

TNS

## What counting Florida butterflies can tell the world about climate change

parks or homes with well-tended butterfly gardens. So far this year, teams visited the old Orchid Jungle attraction at Hattie Bauer Hammock and Mary Krome Bird Preserve

near Krome Avenue and Avocado Drive. Last weekend's rain shut down counts around Coral Gables and the Deering Estate.

Because of its warm weath-

er, South Florida was always considered a mecca for rare butterflies. When an amethyst hairstreak, a rare tree-inhabiting bluish purple butterfly, turned up in Castellow Ham-

mock Park near the Redland in 2004, it drew butterfly enthusiasts for days.

"You expect that with rare birds, but that was one of the first butterflies," Salvato said.

The protection of butterflies has not always ended well in part because what drives them to extinction can sometimes be complicated. The Miami Blue once inhabited much of the South Florida coast but can now only be consistently found in the Marquesas, islands west of Key West.

In 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service added two butterflies, the Bartram's hairstreak and Florida leafwing, to the endangered species list. The listing designated critical habitat, with rules for maintaining it. But critics have often said the designation does little in reality to protect the butterflies and their habitat on private land. After the University of Miami sold the last large tract of pine rockland — the butterflies only habitat — to a Palm Beach County developer, he quickly unveiled plans for a Walmart shopping center and nearly 1,000 apartments. The service is now finalizing a conservation plan that carves the 90-acre forest into two 20-plus acre preserves.

"The Schaus' swallowtail has been listed for a long time and it's no better off," Glassberg said. "People have this

misguided but understandable view that if someone takes a meadow and puts in a parking lot, that the butterflies just move somewhere else. But that's not true. The butterflies are removed from the planet. You've just decreased the population of the world's butterflies."

Since he started counting butterflies in Florida, Salvato said both the number and diversity has declined. Because they react so quickly to changes, butterflies have been used to detect affects from climate change, which can occur faster than with mammals or birds. Warming temperatures prompted the furry brown three-spotted skipper, which looks more like a moth and feeds on grasses, to head north to Gainesville. A decade ago it was not seen outside Miami-Dade County, Salvato said. The Fulvous hairstreak, another brown butterfly that feeds on Brazilian pepper, is now showing up north of Melbourne.

The rarer butterflies found only in South Florida have not followed their lead in expanding, and sometimes not even occurring in historic ranges where they should be.

"Some butterflies that shouldn't be a rarity are a rarity like the Miami Blue," Salvato said. "I'm hoping somebody can get to the biology of these butterflies and understand what caused them to blink out in their historic range."

In the meantime, there's the count, which isn't getting any easy for its aging corps of volunteers.

"You may get ticks. You may get mosquito bit. People have to be pretty dedicated to stick with it," said Cooper, who just turned 76 and whose husband helped organize counts until his death last year. "Some of my participants are older than me and out there with hip issues and knee issues and they just watch where they walk."

Attorney Dennis Olle is a birder and butterfly-ist and describes a task that is clearly more meticulous.

"It's not like driving down 95 and seeing a kettle of turkey buzzards," he said. "When you're dealing with butterflies, it's on the ground and you have to walk every foot of that."

It's also one that is critical for South Florida's wild lands.

"It's sort of an early warning device ... If you can't find them, it doesn't mean they're extinct but boy if they're not there, you gotta ask what's going on," he said. "It's a crude instrument, but you gotta be there looking."



From left, Amy Grimm, Leigh Williams, Linda Cooper, Sue Farnsworth and Linda Evans look for butterflies to count in south Miami-Dade county on May 20, 2017.

TNS



# Life & Style

## Jury in Bill Cosby sex assault case adjourns without verdict

**NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)**—Jurors in the Bill Cosby sexual assault case, weighing charges that could send him to prison for the rest of his life, drilled down Tuesday on what the TV star said happened inside his suburban Philadelphia home and how he characterized his relationship with the accuser.

But they didn't come up with a verdict, leaving them tired and spent after a long day in the jury room.

The jury ended a second day of deliberations without reaching a decision on whether Cosby drugged and molested a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004, quitting for the night around 9 p.m. Jurors have spent a total of about 16 hours over two days discussing the case and going over evidence with the judge.

"You've sent word: You're exhausted," said Judge Steven

O'Neill, dismissing the panel until Wednesday morning.

On Tuesday, the jury reviewed more than a dozen passages from a deposition Cosby gave last decade, listening to excerpts on a wide range of topics, from Cosby's first meeting with Andrea Constand to the night in 2004 she says he drugged and violated her.

As he described reaching into Constand's pants, Cosby

testified, "I go into the area that is somewhere between permission and rejection. I am not stopped."

Cosby is charged sexually assaulting Constand, 44. His lawyer has said they were lovers sharing a consensual sexual encounter.

The 79-year-old entertainer did not take the stand at his trial, but prosecutors used his deposition testimony—given in 2005 and 2006 as part of Constand's civil suit against him—as evidence.

As they pored over Cosby's words, the jurors appeared to struggle with some language in one of the charges against him: "without her knowledge." The jury asked about the phrasing Tuesday morning, but Judge Steven O'Neill said he could not define it for them.

The jury is considering three counts of felony aggravated indecent assault. The third count covers Cosby's alleged use of pills to impair Constand before groping her

breast and genitals.

Outside the courthouse, Constand's lawyers blasted the Cosby team Tuesday for releasing a statement from a woman who had been blocked from testifying at the trial.

Cosby's spokesman, Andrew Wyatt, read the statement from longtime Temple University official Marguerite Jackson, who said Constand told her of a plan to falsely accuse a "high-profile person" of sexual assault so she could sue and get money.

## Rolling Stone to pay \$1.65M to settle suit over rape story

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)**—Rolling Stone magazine agreed to pay \$1.65 million to settle a defamation lawsuit filed by a University of Virginia fraternity over a debunked story about a rape on campus, the fraternity said Tuesday.

The settlement closes the final chapter of a lengthy legal saga sparked by the 2014 story "A Rape on Campus," which was retracted after a police investigation found no evidence to back up the harrowing account of the woman identified in the story only as "Jackie."

The Virginia Alpha Chapter of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, which had sought \$25 million, said in a statement that its members are glad to be able to put the "ordeal" behind them.

"It has been nearly three years since we, and the entire University of Virginia community, were shocked by the now infamous article, and we are pleased to be able to close

the book on that trying ordeal and its aftermath," the fraternity said.

Rolling Stone declined to comment.

The story by Sabrina Rubin Erdely, of Philadelphia, about Jackie's gang rape set off a firestorm at the University of Virginia and in schools nationwide and prompted police to launch an investigation into the alleged assault. The article crumbled after other news outlets began asking questions and police found no evidence to back up Jackie's claims. The story was officially retracted in April 2015.

The fraternity's case had been scheduled to go to trial in October. The fraternity said it plans to donate "a significant portion" of the settlement to groups that provide sexual assault awareness education, prevention training and victim counseling services.

The fraternity claimed that

the magazine knew that Jackie was not a reliable source and ignored red flags indicating that her story was flawed. The reporter did not verify the existence of the alleged ringleader of Jackie's attack or contact others who could have debunked the story.

"Rolling Stone and Erdely had an agenda, and they were recklessly oblivious to the harm they would cause innocent victims in their ruthless pursuit of that agenda," the fraternity's lawsuit said.

Rolling Stone earlier this year settled another defamation lawsuit filed by university administrator Nicole Eramo after a jury awarded her \$3 million. Lawyers did not provide the settlement dollar amount in that case.

A federal judge in New York last year threw out another lawsuit over the story filed by three former fraternity members.

## Kim Kardashian discusses fame, missteps at Forbes summit

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Kim Kardashian West takes her status as a role model seriously, and says part of that is owning up to her past mistakes and not letting online hatred distract her from her goals.

The reality show star spoke to The Associated Press Tuesday before taking the stage as one of the keynote speakers at the annual Forbes Women's Summit. Her wide-ranging conversations touched on how hurtful comments

never repeat those mistakes, and just learn from what I've done," she said. "So if people, or young girls, or kids can look up to just someone that works really hard, and focuses on really what I want, and makes that happen, then you know I hope that inspires them."

Earlier in the day, Kardashian West added to that brand as announced the launch of her beauty line KKW. Forbes just released its 2017 list ranking the world's highest-paid celebrities and Kardashian came in at number 47 with \$45.5 million.

Kardashian West has a combined 180 million followers on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, and has mastered each platform for maximum exposure for her overall brand, something she attributes to a simple rule.

"The most important thing

is being authentic, and listening," she said.

With that many followers, Kardashian West said she knows there's going to be a certain level of negative comments, which of course bother her.

"Absolutely it affects me... there could be one or two negative comments that really do affect you, and get to you," she said. "You know I'm human just like everyone else. Like things do hurt my feelings, but I think that I do have a really thick skin."

She is more concerned that people, young and old, are victims of the same online bullying tactics.

"They have this keyboard courage that no one will see them and they will just write whatever and hurt your feelings," she said. "I know I can handle it, but I just fear for—I do see why young kids and people and teenagers, even get ... so hurt and bothered. That is what really bothers me."

## R2-D2, lightsaber: Force is strong in this Star Wars auction

**BOSTON (AP)**—Die-hard Star Wars fans will need to rely on more than the force if they want to bid on an R2-D2 droid that appeared in several of the franchise's movies.

A couple million dollars might also help.

Luke Skywalker's lightsaber, Darth Vader's helmet and shoulder armor, as well as imperial and rebel weapons are on the block, but the centerpiece is no doubt the squat blue, white and silver droid famous for communicating in a series of electronic beeps and squeaks.

Representing "the pinnacle of the Star Wars collecting universe," it could fetch up to \$2 million in the June 26-28 auction, according to Calabasas, California-based auction house Profiles in History. The bidding is being handled by Boston-based online auction marketplace Invaluable.

Nothing like a complete R2 unit has ever been sold at auction before, said Stephanie Connell, a London-based movie memorabilia consultant not involved in the sale.

"This is not just a normal movie prop," she said. "This is instantly recognizable, the creme de la creme of movie props."

Connell wracked her mind, but said she could not recall any single piece of Star Wars memorabilia ever selling for anywhere close to \$2 million.

The 43-inch tall R2 unit for sale is sort of a Frankenstein's monster of droids, pieced together over several years from different original components used in the first five Star Wars movies. There is no other known complete original R2 unit in the public domain, according to the auction house.

For the sequels after the original "Star Wars: A New Hope" in 1977, production designers took the aluminum, steel and fiberglass R2 units, retired old and worn out parts and added new features to



AP

This 2017 photo provided by Profiles in History shows an R2-D2 droid pieced together over several years from different props used in the first five Star Wars movies, which will be among several Star Wars-related items up for auction on June 26-28, 2017, by the auction house in Calabasas, Calif.

save time and meet production deadlines.

Fans outbid for the droid may want to take a shot at landing the lightsaber. Carried by actor Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker in the first two Star Wars movies, it is expected to sell for anywhere from \$150,000 to \$250,000.

Unfortunately, the prop does not emit a blade of blue light.

The 10.5 -inch lightsaber comes directly from the archive of Gary Kurtz, producer of "Star Wars: A New Hope" and "The Empire Strikes Back," and is accompanied with a letter of authenticity signed by Kurtz.

Not a Star Wars fan? Props

from some of Hollywood's most famous movies are also for sale, including the illuminated disco dancing floor from "Saturday Night Fever," which is expected to get as much as \$1.5 million; and the clothes worn by Leonardo DiCaprio as Jack Dawson in "Titanic."

In terms of movie memorabilia, Star Wars rates as one of the most popular with collectors, right up there with "The Wizard of Oz," "Casablanca" and the Harry Potter films, Connell said.

For that reason, a collector of fine artwork or classic cars could end up buying the R2-D2.

"This is something you could put right next to a Picasso." She said.



# Pulitzer Prize winner Tracy K. Smith is new US poet laureate

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Tracy K. Smith, the country's new poet laureate, would like to start a conversation.

"A poem asks you to let go many of your assumptions, move away from your own certainties and to listen," says Smith, 45, a Pulitzer Prize winner whose appointment to a one-year term was announced Wednesday by the Library of Congress.

Smith, who succeeds Juan Felipe Herrera, won the Pulitzer in 2012 for her poetry collection "Life on Mars" and

was a National Book Award finalist for nonfiction three years later for her memoir "Ordinary Light." She has been praised for her command of language and emotions, for a vision that encompasses everything from space exploration to the death of her father, and her gift for both social commentary and personal reflection.

"Smith shows herself to be a poet of extraordinary range and ambition," poet Joel Brouwer, reviewing "Life on Mars," wrote in The New York Times



<sup>AP</sup>  
In this April 16, 2012 file photo, Pulitzer Prize winning poet Tracy K. Smith poses outside her apartment in New York.

in 2011. "As all the best poetry does, 'Life on Mars' first sends us out into the magnificent chill of the imagination and then returns us to ourselves, both changed and consoled."

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said in a statement that Smith "shows us through these poems how to think and feel our way through these big ideas. It's wonderful that her poetry can be so big and sprawling in its themes, and at the same time laser-focused in its words."

The laureate's responsibilities are few, allowing appointees to establish individual projects and priorities, such as the workshops for women organized by Maxine Kumin. The job's official title is the lofty "Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry," with a more grounded stipend of \$35,000.

The laureate "serves as the nation's official lightning rod for the poetic impulse of Americans," according to the library, and "seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry."

Other previous laureates include Robert Pinsky, Rita Dove and Natasha Trethewey.

Smith's goals at this point are to use poetry as a bridge for people of different backgrounds and viewpoints. She accepts the job at a uniquely divided moment, serving during the administration of Donald Trump, a reliable villain at poetry readings. Poets laureate have little interaction with the president and have rarely been drawn into political conflict. An exception happened in 2003, during the administration of George W. Bush. Poet laureate Billy Collins stated he was opposed to war in Iraq and defended anti-war poets who led the White House to cancel a planned symposium with first lady Laura Bush.

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Man arrested for uploading "Deadpool" to his Facebook page

**FRESNO, Calif.** (AP)—Federal prosecutors say a man was arrested in central California for allegedly uploading the Marvel film "Deadpool" to his Facebook page days after its February 2016 release. The United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California says 21-year-old Trevon Maurice Franklin was arrested Tuesday on a federal criminal charge of copyright infringement. The arrest follows an FBI investigation. The office says the film copyrighted by the Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation was viewed more than 5 million times on Franklin's Facebook page. It says Franklin used the screen name "Tre-Von M. King" to upload the film, which was one of the highest-grossing movies in 2016. If convicted, Franklin faces a statutory maximum penalty of three years in federal prison.

### 'The Daily Show' is unveiling the Trump Twitter Library

**NEW YORK** (AP)—"The Daily Show" is unveiling the

Donald J. Trump Presidential Twitter Library this weekend. The pop-up exhibit will be at 3 West 57th Street in Manhattan, not far from Trump Tower, Comedy Central announced Tuesday. It will feature some of the president's better known one-shots, organized around such categories as "SAD! A Retrospective" and "The Commander-In-Tweet." The "Daily Show" will highlight Trump's insults and contradictions and allow "verified survivors" to remember being on the receiving end of his social media outbursts. The exhibit runs Friday through Sunday, and will be open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free.

### Chris Brown, DJ Khaled, New Edition to perform at BET Awards

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Chris Brown, DJ Khaled, Lil Wayne and New Edition have been added as performers at this month's BET Awards. The network announced Tuesday that Post Malone and Roman GianArthur would join previously announced performers Bruno Mars, Migos and

Future on June 25 at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. Other set to hit the stage include Trey Songz, Tamar Braxton and Jessie Reyez. "Saturday Night Live" comic Leslie Jones will be host. Presenters include Jamie Foxx, Queen Latifah, Trevor Noah, Jada Pinkett Smith, Issa Rae and Yara Shahidi. Beyonce, who is pregnant with twins, is nominated for seven awards, while Mars is up for five. New Edition, who had success with their BET biopic this year, will receive the lifetime achievement award. Chance the Rapper will earn the humanitarian award.

### NBC's Brokaw challenges journalists to expose fake news

**NEW YORK** (AP)—NBC News' elder statesman Tom Brokaw is challenging fellow journalists to write more about the scourge of "fake news." The newsman said he has a close friend who believes blatantly false stories even though Brokaw demonstrates to him that they're not true. The 77-year-old Brokaw, longtime anchor at NBC's "Nightly News" be-

fore stepping down in 2004, accepted an award from Syracuse University on Tuesday. Brokaw says the amount of false stories in the news ecosystem doesn't get enough attention. He said the lesson of the last election for journalists is too many were covering the story from the top down instead of the bottom up—meaning they need to get out in the country and find out what people are thinking.

### World-famous 'Vegas Vickie' neon cowgirl sign removed

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—The famous neon sign of a cowgirl in downtown Las Vegas has been taken down as part of the construction of a planned casino-resort. After more than two decades on Freemont Street, "Vegas Vickie" was dismantled Tuesday. Casino owner Derek Stevens says his company is looking for a home for the neon sign. It was created in 1980 and originally dubbed "Sassy Sally" after a casino of that name. Stevens' company is planning to transform the space previously occupied by the Las Vegas Club.

## Stephen King says President Trump blocked him on Twitter

**BANGOR, Maine**

(AP)—Horror author Stephen King says his frequent criticism of President Donald Trump has gotten him blocked on Twitter.



The author of King "Firestarter" and "It" tweeted Tuesday the Republican president has blocked him on the social media website. He says, "I may have to kill myself."

King lives in Bangor, Maine, and uses his Twitter account to criticize Trump regularly. He tweeted in February that Trump "screws up"

America's relationship with Australia. He called Trump "an impulsive, bad-tempered idiot."

King tweeted a lament in December that Hillary Clinton's victory in the popular vote was by a margin of millions and Trump was still going to become president.

Lawyers for two Twitter users last week sent the White House a letter demanding they be un-blocked from the @realDonaldTrump account. The White House didn't respond to a request for comment then.

## Sweethearts struggling with a 30-year age gap

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm in my late 20s and have a male companion who is 30-plus years older than I am. We were together for a while, then stopped so we could both try to find someone closer to our ages. Neither of us did, and we recently started seeing each other again.

Although we are good for each other and compatible in many ways, we are realistic that our relationship isn't long-term for major reasons. (I want children; he's happy with grandchildren. He wants to travel after retirement; I'm just starting my career.) We live for the moment and don't dwell too much on the future.

My problem is, this time I'm really falling in love with him. Last time, I was reluctant to become emotional because I was afraid of getting hurt. But this time, I am all in. Can any good come of this? We meet each other's relationship needs in the here and now, but is the end just heartbreak?

LOVING FOR THE MOMENT

**DEAR LOVING:** It's time for you to start compiling a list of the pros and cons of this romance. You and this man are at different stages of life and have very different goals. If you really want to have a family and a career, you will have to sacrifice something for it, and that "something" may be devoting much more time to this man. Sorry, but something's gotta give.

**DEAR ABBY:** Recently, my husband and I were walking down the sidewalk in our neighborhood and came across \$160 in cash strewn all over the ground. We picked it up, and as we were doing so, our neighbor came outside. We knew her husband had just gotten home, and the money was near his car, so we asked if it might be his. We handed her the cash and told her to let us know.

Two weeks have gone by and no one has claimed it. Our neighbor still has it in her possession, and has mentioned in passing that we should spend it on toys for our kids or food/drinks at the next get-together.

While I think these are OK ideas, I'm a little bitter because my husband and I found the money, and I feel we should be the ones who get to keep it if no one comes forward to claim it. I don't want to damage the friendship we have with our neighbors, but I feel like we're losing a bit. What do you think?

FINDERS KEEPERS

**DEAR FINDERS KEEPERS:** I think that before handing over the money, you should have had your neighbor ask her husband if he had lost any and how much. Because you didn't do that and they have the cash, perhaps you should "remind" her that "per her suggestion," you would LOVE to spend some of it on toys for your kids, and ask for some or all of it back. If she's a good neighbor, she'll agree. If not, you will have learned an expensive lesson.

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR ABBY:** I have a good friend I always invite to attend parties and events. She invariably RSVPs accepting the invitation, but never shows up or explains her absence. This has been going on for years and it hurts my feelings. Do I have to keep inviting her?

COLORADO HOSTESS

**DEAR HOSTESS:** Allow me to offer you some insight: The woman's behavior is extremely rude. "Good friends" do not treat each other this way. If you're asking my permission to scratch her off your guest list, you have it.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.







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Pro se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In The Matter of )  
The Adoption of: ) FCD-AD-CIVIL  
Mateo James Junior ) ACTION NO.  
Borja Hocog ) 17-0274  
Minor Child )  
By: ) **NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Antonio/ )  
Elisa M. Borja )  
Petitioner(s) )

Notice is hereby given that the above-mentioned is set for a hearing on 11th day of September, 2017 at 1:30 P.M. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Govendo

Dated this 13th day of June, 2017.

/s/  
By: Patrick V. Diaz,  
Deputy Clerk of Court

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/s/ Mariana Aldan-Pierce  
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# Kershaw wins, Bellinger hits 2 homers as Dodgers top Indians



CLEVELAND (AP)—Clayton Kershaw extended his unbeaten string and rookie Cody Bellinger hit two home runs, including a tiebreaking shot in the eighth inning off Andrew Miller that lifted the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 7-5 victory over the Cleveland Indians in Major League Baseball on Tuesday.

Kershaw (9-2) allowed two runs in seven innings and has not lost in his last eight starts. The left-hander gave up a run in the third on Michael Brantley's single and a leadoff homer to Roberto Perez in the fifth that tied the game.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner yielded six hits, struck out four and walked two while throwing 101 pitches. He is 5-0 with a 1.94 ERA since his most recent defeat on May 1.

Bellinger led off the eighth with a towering drive into the right-field seats off Miller (3-1). The home run was the first Cleveland's dominant left-hander has allowed in 33 innings this season.

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## Twins 20, Mariners 7

In Minneapolis, Eddie Rosario hit three home runs and drove in five runs and the Twins set a team record with 28 hits while batting around in two different innings of a victory over the Mariners.

Max Kepler and Brian Dozier also went deep, Eduardo Escobar had five hits and two RBIs and Jason Castro had four hits and four RBIs for the Twins, who are in first place in the AL Central division despite an American League-worst 13-19 record at Target Field.

The 28 hits are the most in a game since the Rangers had 29 in a 30-3 win over the Orioles on Aug. 22, 2007.

Christian Bergman (3-4) gave up nine runs and 10 hits in 2 1/3 innings for the Mariners. Jarrod Dyson had a homer, a double and an RBI. Ben Gamel had two doubles and an RBI.

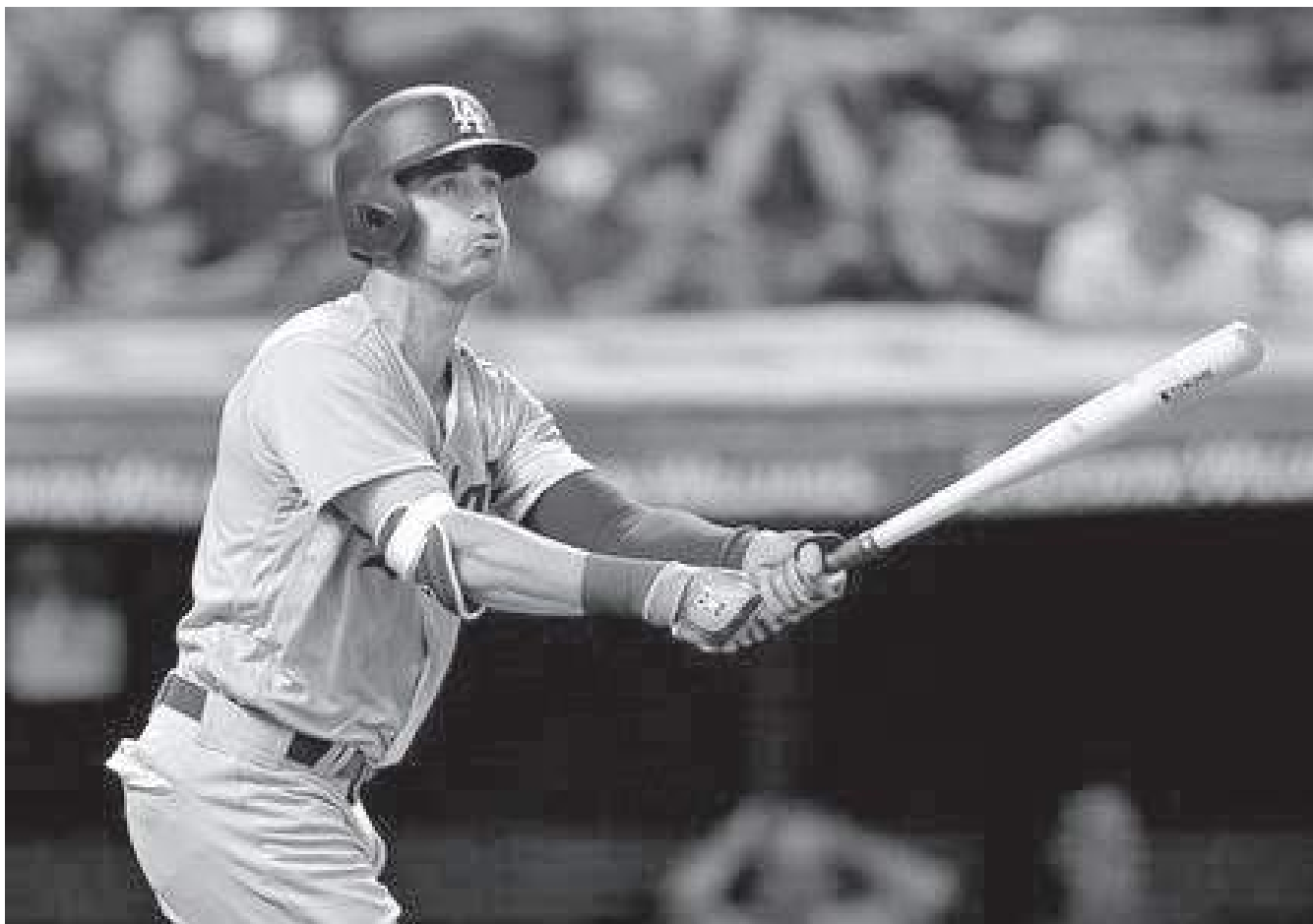
## Angels 3, Yankees 2, 11 innings

In Anaheim, California, Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia exited early with a strained left hamstring, and Eric Young Jr. rallied Los Angeles to an 11-inning victory that ended New York's six-game winning streak.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi said he anticipates Sabathia is headed to the disabled list, a disappointing blow for the AL East leaders with the big left-hander pitching his best ball in years.

Sabathia left after four innings and said he will have an MRI on Wednesday.

Young tied the score at 2



Los Angeles Dodgers' Cody Bellinger watches his three-run home run off Cleveland Indians relief pitcher Boone Logan during the ninth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, June 13, 2017, in Cleveland.

streak to seven straight.

## Pirates 5, Rockies 2

In Pittsburgh, John Jaso hit a pinch-hit two-run homer off Colorado's Adam Ottavino in the seventh inning to break a tie and Andrew McCutchen homered twice as the Pirates pulled away from the Rockies.

Jaso sent the second pitch he saw from Ottavino (0-1) just over the fence in center field for his second pinch-hit homer of the season and fifth of his career. Gerrit Cole (4-6) broke out of a funk to allow just one run in seven strong innings.

The Pirates have won a season-high four straight following a four-game losing streak that dropped them to last in the NL Central.

## Cubs 14, Mets 3

In New York, Anthony Rizzo began the game with a long home run after a surprising move to the leadoff spot, rookie Ian Happ hit his first career grand slam and the Cubs trounced the Mets.

Backed by a season-best seven-run second inning, the World Series champs ended a nine-game skid on the road and moved back to .500 through 64 games. The Cubs had lost five of six overall.

## Padres 6, Reds 2

In San Diego, Clayton Kershaw carried a shutout into the ninth inning. Franchy Cordero homered twice and the Padres beat the slumping Reds.

One out from going the distance, Richard was removed after pinch-hitter Tucker Barnhart's two-run double. The left-hander allowed eight hits while striking out six and walking two.

## Royals 8, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Alcides Escobar hit a two-run double as part of a six-run sixth inning and the Royals beat the Giants.

Jorge Bonifacio drove in three runs and ended an 0-for-13 drought, Alex Gordon added two hits and two runs, while Whit Merrifield had a bases-loaded triple to help Kansas City to a win in its first appearance at AT&T Park since the 2014 World Series.

Jason Vargas (9-3) allowed one run over seven innings to outpitch Ty Blach in a battle of left-handers. Vargas gave up five hits with six strikeouts and one walk for his fourth straight win overall and second against the Giants this season.

with a solo homer off Tyler Clippard in the eighth and drove home the winning run with a sharp infield single off the leg of reliever Ben Heller with two outs in the 11th.

Young has three homers in 15 MLB games this season, equaling his total from the previous four years combined.

## White Sox 6, Orioles 1

In Chicago, Matt Davidson hit his first career grand slam, Derek Holland scattered eight hits over six innings and the White Sox beat the Orioles.

Jose Abreu went 3 for 4 and Avisail Garcia had a two-run double as Chicago won its second straight after dropping nine of 11.

Davidson leads the White Sox with 12 homers in 163 at-bats.

Manny Machado had an RBI-single for the Orioles.

Holland (5-6) faced trouble in every inning, but managed to give up just one run. The left-hander had lost his three previous starts, allowing 15 earned runs in 13 innings (10.38 ERA) during that span.

Baltimore starter Alec Asher (2-5) allowed six runs and six hits in five-plus innings following a fast start.

## Rays 8, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, rookie Jacob Faria dazzled again and Logan Morrison hit his 18th home run of the season to help the Rays beat the Blue Jays.

Six days after his big-league debut, Faria (2-0) became the third Rays pitcher all-time to win his first two career games, joining Jeremy Hellickson and Joe Kennedy. The victory was Tampa Bay's sixth in its last seven games.

The 23-year-old right-hander held the Blue Jays to six hits

in 6 1/3 innings, striking out eight and giving up one run. He was called up on Monday to replace Matt Andriese, who went on the disabled list with a hip complaint.

Corey Dickerson went 4 for 5 with a homer — his 15th of the season.

Marco Estrada (4-5) had his shortest outing of the season, lasting just 3 1/3 innings after giving up 12 hits and being charged with six runs in his sixth straight loss to Tampa.

## Diamondbacks 7, Tigers 6

In Detroit, David Peralta homered to left center in the ninth inning off Detroit closer Justin Wilson, lifting the Diamondbacks to a win over the Tigers.

Arizona reliever Archie Bradley (2-1) pitched a scoreless eighth to pick up the win. Zack Greinke, who was staked to a 6-0 lead in the third, went 5 2/3 innings and allowed five runs, all unearned, and five hits. Fernando Rodney pitched a scoreless ninth for his 17th save.

Wilson (2-2) took the loss after allowing the homer to Peralta on the first pitch in the ninth. Starter Buck Farmer went 2 1/3 innings and allowed six runs on nine hits. He was 2-0 and had gone 13 straight scoreless innings before Tuesday.

## Nationals 10, Braves 5

In Washington, Ryan Zimmerman hit his 18th and 19th home runs of the season in his return from back soreness, and the Nationals scored five sixth-inning runs against R.A. Dickey to defeat the Braves.

Zimmerman went 3 for 4 and drove in three runs to help Washington end a four-game slide af-

ter sitting out the last three.

Daniel Murphy homered, doubled and had three hits and two RBIs as the NL-East leading Nationals scored eight runs against a second Braves starter in as many nights.

Unlike Monday, Washington's bullpen held firm Tuesday with four relievers combining for 3 1/3 scoreless innings. Trevor Gott (1-0) worked out of the sixth for his first victory as a National.

Dickey (4-5) went five-plus innings while allowing his most runs since April 24, 2015.

## Marlins 8, Athletics 1

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton returned to the Marlins' starting lineup after recovering from a bruised wrist and hit a two-run homer to help beat the Athletics.

Stanton missed only one start after being hit on the right wrist by a fastball Saturday. His 17th homer of the year put Miami ahead 4-1 in the fifth inning.

Marcell Ozuna hit his 16th homer and had two singles, hiking his average to .332. Tyler Moore added three hits, including a two-run double.

The Marlins' Ichiro Suzuki had a pinch-hit single in the eighth for his 364th inter-league hit, tying Derek Jeter's MLB record.

Jose Urena (5-2) won his fourth consecutive decision by allowing one run in six-plus innings. The right-hander, who leads the Marlins in wins, retired 14 straight batters before tiring in the seventh.

## Rangers 4, Astros 2

In Houston, Rougned Odor hit a solo homer in the seventh inning and his tiebreaking two-run shot in the eighth lifted the

Rangers to a victory over the Astros.

Odor tied it at 2-all when he dropped the first pitch of the seventh inning from Chris Devenski into the front row in right field.

He was at it again in the eighth when, after a single by Jonathan Lucroy with two outs, he connected off Luke Gregerson (2-2) into the seats in left field to put Texas up 4-2.

## Cardinals 6, Brewers 0, Game 1; Brewers 8, Cardinals 5, Game 2

In St. Louis, Keon Broxton and Travis Shaw each hit solo home runs and combined for five RBI to help the Brewers beat the Cardinals and split their day-night doubleheader.

The Cardinals won the opener 6-0 behind Jose Martinez's two home runs.

In the nightcap, Shaw's eighth inning single against Trevor Rosenthal (1-3) broke a 5-5 tie. Shaw, who was reinstated from a family medical emergency before the doubleheader, went 2-for-5 in the second game and drove in two runs.

## Red Sox 4, Phillies 3, 12 innings

In Boston, Andrew Benintendi singled to right in the 12th inning driving in Xander Bogaerts for the winning run as the Red Sox outlasted the Phillies.

Mitch Moreland hit one homer and a long single that allowed Bogaerts to advance to third and set up Benintendi's first career walk-off hit.

The Red Sox beat the Phillies in extra innings for the second straight night, extending Philadelphia's losing



# Curry, Durant look to build a Warriors dynasty

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—**Stephen Curry tucked a celebratory cigar into his right sock for safekeeping as he handled all of his post-championship obligations.

His fists were clenched as he pondered his latest accomplishment, still wearing his sweaty uniform, ankle braces, kneepads and game shoes. Oh, there would be more partying, for sure. Perhaps all summer long.

And if he and the rest of the Warriors have their way, for years to come.

Curry, Kevin Durant and their teammates are determined to build a dynasty together—and they might just be well on their way.

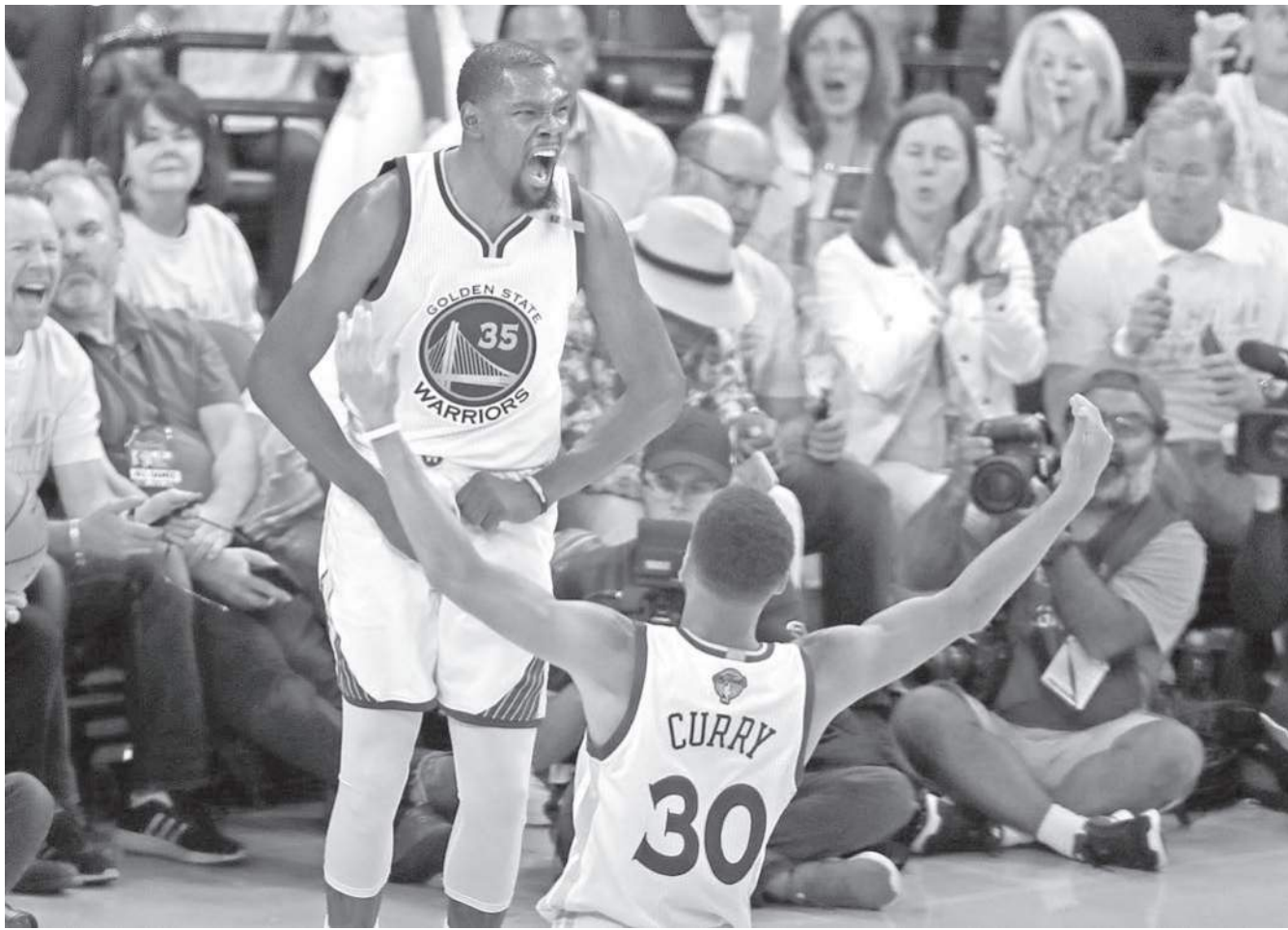
LeBron James believes so.

Two titles in three years for Golden State. A fabulous first one with and for Durant.

"We're obviously just getting started," Curry said after closing out Cleveland in Monday night's NBA Finals Game 5. "This is something that we want to continue to do, but for us to have these conversations that we had almost a year ago and now being in this position, worth every shot we took in practice, fighting through injuries that he had this year, and it's an unbelievable feeling."

The second NBA championship feels drastically different for Curry, because this one was a comeback from a heart-breaking missed opportunity last year against James and the Cavaliers when the Warriors knew they should have won it all but squandered a 3-1 lead.

As a raucous crowd cheered at Oracle Arena, Curry watched freshly crowned Finals MVP Durant capturing his first ring in his 10th NBA season.



AP  
Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) celebrates with guard Stephen Curry (30) during the second half of Game 2 of basketball's NBA Finals against the Cleveland Cavaliers in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, June 4, 2017.



evolved. As a grinning Curry held daughter Riley in his arms, Durant stood next to them with his left hand on the point guard's head.

Later, the two-time reigning MVP took off his new NBA champions hat and studied it briefly before pulling it on again, backward.

Curry had Durant to complement his game this time, to take some pressure off. They learned from each other every step of the way, they pushed one another through fierce shooting competitions that were pure entertainment on a practice floor.

At the start, Curry took a back seat to let KD get comfortable. Then Curry carried Golden State while Durant healed from a left knee injury that sidelined him late in the regular season.

"Steph definitely took a back seat to start the season until he realized we didn't need him to take a back seat, we need you to be aggressive as you're going to be," forward Draymond Green said. "And when Steph turned that corner, I think it was after Christmas Day, when he turned that corner, we became almost unbeatable."

"It's different just because of what happened last year to be honest," Curry said. "We went through, for lack of a better term, basketball hell in that sense of just being so close to getting the job done and not realizing that goal and having to think about that for an entire year and compartmentalize and just try to keep the right perspective about this season and learn the lessons that we learned."

Coach Steve Kerr cried. Golden State general manager Bob Myers also was moved to tears given Kerr's courageous Finals comeback from an 11-game absence while dealing with complications from back surgery following the 2015

title run.

Kerr still found time to crack a joke on the stage afterward: "Well, we had very little talent, actually, it was mostly coaching."

Later, he was straightforward and serious: "We were heartbroken last year, but this year was our turn."

Myers realizes adding Durant might not have worked so well with anyone but the Warriors.

"Kevin's journey, our team embraced him. Some teams wouldn't embrace a guy who came into a situation like ours. It looks like it was easy, but guys like Steph Curry welcoming him and kind of let him shine—it worked out like

it should," Myers said. "If you want to win, it doesn't matter. It's not about who scored what. It's about winning. I think he knew that. He won a championship, and then we were close and didn't win one. So you have a clear sense of what matters when you go through that stuff."

Now, the Warriors will face a frenzy of free-agent moves this summer to try to keep as many stars and brilliant back-ups as possible around for another run in 2018.

Owner Joe Lacob will be pulling out his pocketbook to potentially give Curry a \$200 million deal. Whatever it is, the big-money contract will be a hefty raise from the \$12 mil-

lion he earned on the way to a 16-1 postseason.

Money and egos aside, the Warriors blended beautifully from the day Durant first walked into team headquarters.

"I mean, come on, you got a bunch of guys who are talented and can shoot and pass and dribble, and they're unselfish," Kerr said. "There was never any question in my mind that this was going to work. So, this is the culmination of a year where they grew together and learned each other's games and got better and better all year, and it was just phenomenal to be part of."

One moment late Monday captured the camaraderie that

## No longer NBA champions, Cavaliers are now chasing Warriors

**CLEVELAND (AP)—**Once he congratulated Kevin Durant and Stephen Curry, LeBron James left the floor following Game 5 and found Kyrie Irving waiting for him.

Cleveland's two stars embraced, and as they headed toward the locker room and Queen's "We Are the Champions" played inside thundering Oakland's Oracle Arena, James delivered a message to his teammate and the world.

"We'll be back," he said. "We'll be back."

They were fabulous and flawed defending NBA champs, their deficiencies in depth and defense exposed by a superior team in the Finals.

One year after their historic comeback, James and the Cavaliers couldn't catch the Golden State Warriors.

Unable to defend their title

despite the league's highest payroll, rampaging through the Eastern Conference playoffs and James' brilliance against the free-wheeling Warriors for five games, the Cavs are no longer the team to beat. They're still championship caliber, but a step or two behind a glittering Golden State team that went 81-18 in Durant's first season and built for the long haul.

At 32, and playing as well as ever in 14 seasons, James has a possible dynasty blocking his path.

"I need to sit down and figure this thing out," said James, who averaged 33.6 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists in his seventh consecutive Finals.

"They're going to be around for a while. Pretty much all their guys are in their 20s. Pretty much all their big-name guys

are in their 20s, and they don't show any signs of slowing down. ... From my eyes, they're built to last a few years."

The Cavaliers aren't constructed for the same longevity.

James is under contract for one more season, and there's no guarantee the three-time champion and five-time Finals loser will sign a long-term deal in 2018 with Cleveland despite his deep devotion to Northeast Ohio. Last week, James said he didn't know how many years he has left. It's possible that his outside business interests, which include a desire to one day own an NBA team, could push him into retirement.

That's down the road. A more pressing concern for the team is the status of general manager David Griffin, whose contract expires on June 30.

Aided by having James to build around and owner Dan Gilbert's willingness to spend, Griffin has assembled and overseen a roster that has made three straight Finals and is positioned to stay atop the East.

Griffin has been with the club since 2010, taking over as GM when Chris Grant was fired in 2014. He's the one who persuaded Irving to sign a long-term deal with Cleveland before it was known that James was coming back and Griffin pulled off the trade for Kevin Love. He acquired veterans J.R. Smith and Iman Shumpert in 2015, fired coach David Blatt and promoted Tyronn Lue midway through the '16 season and added Kyle Korver, Deron Williams and Andrew Bogut this year.

Gilbert and Griffin are

expected to meet again this week. Griffin has been linked to past openings in Orlando, Atlanta and Milwaukee, but his preference is to stay with Cleveland as he and his wife, Meredith, have immersed themselves in the community.

Once the front office situation is settled, the next priorities are addressing Cleveland's weaknesses: defense, an aging bench and backup point guard.

The Cavaliers couldn't stop the Warriors during critical stretches in the Finals, and there were warning signs long before Durant got free for dunks, Curry drained wide-open 3-pointers or Golden State averaged 121.6 points.

Cleveland's defense was suspect all season, ranking among the worst in statistical efficiency. The Cavs often outscored their mistakes, but the

lack of a rim protector (Bogut was injured in his first minute on the floor) and a defensive commitment proved costly. Both areas must be fixed.

Korver, Channing Frye, Richard Jefferson and Deron Williams contributed during the regular season and earlier rounds against Indiana, Toronto and Boston, but with the exception of Jefferson, the seasoned vets were overmatched against the younger, quicker Warriors. Cleveland needs an infusion of young blood to fix a second unit that struggled from the opener.

Then there's Love, who went just 2 of 8 in Game 5 and had 1-of-9 and 4-of-13 shooting performances earlier in the Finals. The All-Star forward has been the subject of trade rumblings in the past and his name is certain to surface this summer as contending teams look for that missing piece to close the gap on Golden State.



# Edelman not slowing down after inking new contract extension



AP  
New England Patriots wide receiver Julian Edelman speaks with members of the media following NFL football practice, Tuesday, June 13, 2017, in Foxborough, Mass.

**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.** (AP)—Julian Edelman is a step closer toward playing his entire NFL career with the New England Patriots.

The 31-year-old receiver confirmed Tuesday that he has signed a contract extension that runs through the 2019 season.

Edelman was one of the heroes of New England's historic Super Bowl comeback win over Atlanta in February,

hauling in a juggling fourth-quarter catch to keep the game-tying drive alive.

The play instantly went down in Patriots history, but the gutty 5-foot-11 Kent State player had long established himself as one of quarterback Tom Brady's go-to targets over eight years.

Edelman said he's happy to remain "a Pat" but insisted he isn't thinking about anything beyond the upcoming 2017 season.

"As lame as it sounds and as much as you guys hear it, it's

really a mentality where you just keep it day-to-day," he said. "When you can do that, that's usually when you stay focused and you improve the most."

Though he had offseason foot surgery leading into 2016, Edelman still appeared in all 16 regular-season games for just the second time in his career. He also had a team-best 98 catches and 1,106 yards receiving. He has 425 catches for 4,520 yards and 24 touchdowns over his career. He also has 1,024 receiving yards and

five touchdowns in the post-season.

He will now anchor a receiver group that includes trade acquisition Brandin Cooks, along with Chris Hogan, Danny Amendola and Malcolm Mitchell.

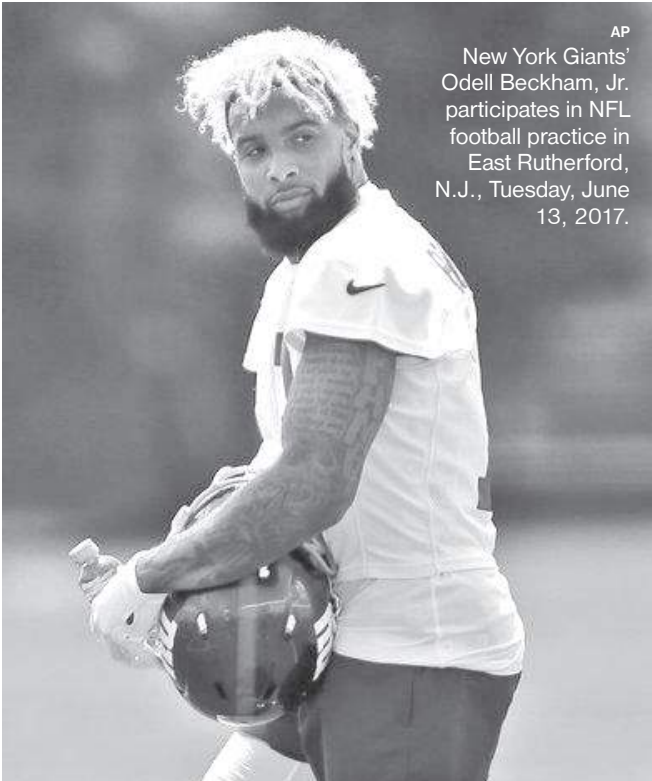
Coach Bill Belichick said Edelman's play hasn't been a total surprise despite entering the league as a seventh-round pick in 2009.

"Julian's improved and done a lot of things that he never did in college, so that was not maybe something that he would have projected or anticipated," he said. "But at the same time, he had enough qualities that we drafted him, and he showed that even as a rookie, I think, in terms of his production."

Edelman said he has a new opportunity that he didn't have last season by coming into off-season workouts without any injuries.

"When you're hurt, you're trying to get healthy and when you're getting healthy, other guys are working on their techniques, their fundamentals, and it's giving them an upper hand," Edelman said. "I'm a practice player. The more I practice, the more confident I become."

# Beckham at Giants minicamp after missing voluntary OTAs



AP  
New York Giants' Odell Beckham, Jr. participates in NFL football practice in East Rutherford, N.J., Tuesday, June 13, 2017.

**EASY RUTHERFORD, N.J.** (AP)—Standout wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. has joined the New York Giants for the team's mandatory three-day minicamp.

The three-time Pro Bowl player skipped the recent organized team activities to train on the West Coast. Those workouts are voluntary.

But many felt Beckham

should have attended the OTAs after being criticized for a one-day vacation to Florida in the week leading up to the team's playoff loss to Green Bay.

The Giants recently picked up the fifth-year option on Beckham's rookie contract. One of the most dynamic receivers in the league, he will make \$1.8 million this season and \$8.4 million next.

Joining Beckham at the minicamp was defensive end Olivier Vernon, who earned second-team All Pro honors last season after signing a five-year \$85 million contract. He also skipped the OTAs.

**LEE**

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Australia's Chiara Di Tommaso and Grace Schumacher, 6-4, 2-6, 12-10. The Japanese will be facing their compatriot Otoh Aoki and the U.S.'s Sara Tsukamoto in the Final Four duel at the top half of the draw. The No. 1-ranked Aoki and Tsukamoto eased their way to the semifinals after ousting New Caledonia's Lea Bolo and Lysiane Moto-Nekiriai, 6-2, 6-0.

Meanwhile, in the singles event, Lee is also in the race as she leads the quarterfinalists in the 33-player field. The 15-year-old CNMI bet and No. 1 seed in the Grade 5 tournament marched into the Round of 8 after downing No. 16 Sakura Kurokawa of Japan, 6-0, 6-1. Next up for

Lee is another seeded player in No. 5 and New Zealand's Elys Saguil-Ventura, who booted out Australia's Roopa Bains, 6-2, 6-1.

Lee's fellow Commonwealth player Isabel Heras won't be joining the former to the next round after bowing to Krish, 3-6, 1-6, at the lower half of the draw. Krish will be dueling last week's finalist Helena Mohamed of France in the quarterfinals, while the other Round of 8 pairing at the bottom half of the draw will have Tsukamoto meeting Erika Matsuda. Tsukamoto and Matsuda moved to the quarterfinals after topping New Zealand's Amelia Lawson, 6-4, 6-1, and Georgia Townsend, 7-6 (5), 6-2, respectively. Aoki and Di Tommaso completed the Round of 8 qual-

**SONG**

**From Page 28**

ter Day 3. The three players are 2-0, pending results of yesterday's matches, which include the battle between Miyawaki and Choi.

In the boys 14-and-under singles, the CNMI's Sean Lee is one win away from sweeping pool play after dominating FSM's Nolan Namuhn, 6-1, 6-0. The No. 1 seed in the division bagged his third victory in as many games and was scheduled to meet fellow Commonwealth player Richard Steele (2-1) in his final preliminary match in Group A. Both Lee and Steele are assured of the quarterfinals slots in the event regardless of the results of their game yesterday.

Meanwhile, in the U12 team event, the CNMI Boys 1 improved to a 2-0 record after sweeping the CNMI Boys 2, 3-0. Daniel Kang and Anthony Gregoire prevailed against Kiwoong Kwon, 6-4, 6-1, and Andrew Chung, 6-0, 6-1, in their respective singles matches and also took the doubles game, 6-4, 6-4.

In the girls division, the CNMI Girls 1 debuted with a close win over North Pacific Girls, 2-1. Hyejin Elliot and J.C. Ferrer won the deciding doubles match versus FSM's Leilah Etscheit and Guam's Monte Gibson, 4-6, 6-3, 10-8. Elliot also downed Gibson in the singles 1 game, 6-1, 6-0, while Etscheit topped Ferrer in the other singles play, 6-3, 6-1.

**TWIN**

**From Page 28**

won convincingly over Mt. Carmel School, 58-42.

The Sonics XVI held the Knights to 2 points in the third quarter en route to the double-digit winning margin. The MCS-Sonics XVI tiff was tied at halftime, 27-all, before the Knights had a meltdown in the penultimate period, allowing the latter to break away. Keanu Diaz, Champ Sabangan, and Jester Kintaro had two field goals apiece in the third canto to power the Sonics XVI to a 46-29 advantage,

while MCS' lone basket came from Juan R. Quitugua.

After their lackluster showing in the third frame, the Knights picked up their scoring behind the consecutive field goals of Joseph Muna. However, Mt. Carmel still fell short, as the Sonics XVI managed to counter Muna's baskets to keep its safe distance.

The victory gave the Sonics XVI a 5-3 record and third place in the team standings behind the unbeaten NMI Rollers (7-0) and Ol'Aces Elite (5-1), making the former a likely qualifier in the playoff round. The Top 8 teams after

the round-robin regular season of the 12-team field will move into the single-elimination playoffs. The Knights, despite the loss, are still in the race with their 4-4 mark for No. 6 in the team standings.

Just slightly ahead of Mt. Carmel at No. 5 with a 4-3 card is the Sonics XVIII, who led against the Kagman Sparks right from the get-go and pulled away in the third.

The Sonics XVIII built a 24-13 advantage at the break and then went for the kill in the third after limiting the Sparks to two field goals for a 45-17 lead. Jerome Malasarte and

Jeremie Manansala teamed up in outgunning the Sparks as they combined for 14 points in the third canto.

Malasarte finished with a game-high 12 points, while Manansala had 8, the same output Sonics XVIII got from Ronald Bernardo.

Mustafa Augustino logged 12 points for Kagman, which has only one win in six games and is in danger of not making the cut.

**First Game**

**Sonics XVIII 51** – Malasarte 13, Bernardo 8, Manansala 8, Paragados 6, Lagmay 4, Bautista 3, Chavez 3, Muna

2, Ejercito 2, Aque 2.

**Kagman Sparks 40** – M. Augustino 12, P. Augustino 8, Faisao 7, Guerrero 6, Santos 4, Smith 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 12-8, 24-13, 45-17, 51-40.

**Second Game**

**Sonics XVI 58** – Diaz 13, Kintaro 11, Linaogo 9, Sabangan 8, Ejercito 7, Ordon 6, Apasan 4.

**MCS Knights 42** – Muna 9, Gamab 9, Cepeda 7, Deleon Guerrero 7, Richardson 5, Santos 3, Quitugua 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 14-13, 27-27, 46-29, 58-42.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	39	25	.609	—
New York	29	34	.460	9½
Miami	28	35	.444	10½
Atlanta	28	36	.438	11
Philadelphia	21	42	.333	17½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	34	32	.515	—
Chicago	32	32	.500	1
St. Louis	30	33	.476	2½
Pittsburgh	30	35	.462	3½
Cincinnati	29	35	.453	4
West Division				
Los Angeles	40	25	.615	—
Colorado	41	26	.612	—
Arizona	40	26	.606	½
San Francisco	26	40	.394	14½
San Diego	26	40	.394	14½
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	38	24	.613	—
Boston	36	28	.563	3
Tampa Bay	35	32	.522	5½
Baltimore	31	32	.492	7½
Toronto	31	33	.484	8
Central Division				
Minnesota	33	28	.541	—
Cleveland	31	30	.508	2
Detroit	30	33	.476	4
Kansas City	29	34	.460	5
Chicago	28	35	.444	6
West Division				
Houston	44	22	.667	—
Los Angeles	34	34	.500	11
Texas	32	32	.500	11
Seattle	32	34	.485	12
Oakland	27	37	.422	16
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				



# 2017 CNMI District Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Saipan Major All-Star player dodges a pitch from Rota's Toting Barcinas during the bottom of the fifth inning of their game in the 2017 CNMI District Tournament last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



Saipan Major All-Star first baseman Heath Camacho picks up the ball to beat Rota runner Mamet Manglona.



Rota players and officials huddle before going at bat at the top of the sixth inning.



Rota's Toting Barcinas pitches.

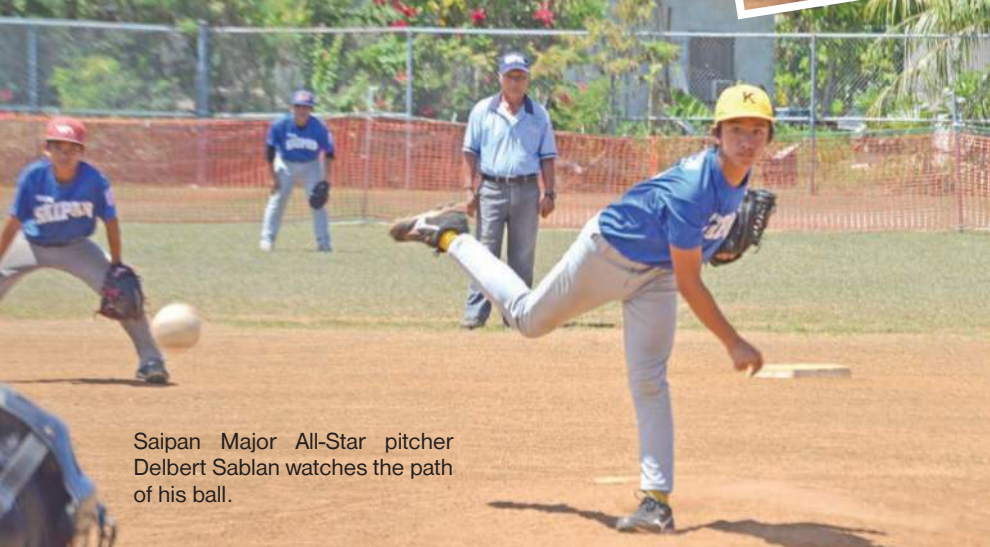


Saipan Major All-Star manager George Camacho gestures to his players.



Saipan Major All-Star's Keoni Serrano runs home.

A Saipan Major All-Star player slides home.



Saipan Major All-Star pitcher Delbert Sablan watches the path of his ball.







Kershaw wins,  
Bellinger hits 2  
homers as Dodgers  
top Indians

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Curry, Durant  
look to build  
a Warriors  
dynasty

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Lee boosts title bid



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lee, seen here getting ready near the net during a doubles match in an ITF Juniors even last year at the Pacific Islands Club, is still in contention for the singles and doubles titles in the Open BNP Paribas Junior de Nouvelle-Caledonie in New Caledonia.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is a win away from a finals appearance in the doubles event of the Open BNP Paribas Junior de Nouvelle-Caledonie following another straight sets victory yesterday at the Ligue Caledonienne De Tennis in New Caledonia.

Lee and her New Zealand teammate Holly Stewart defeated Australia's Chloe Katerdjian and Milan Krish in the quarterfinal round, 6-0, 6-3, to book one of the two semis tickets at stake at the lower half of the draw. Sakura Kurokawa and Erika Matsuda got the other Final Four berth in the group and will challenge the No. 2 seeds



Lee and Stewart for a finals slot after the Japanese pair eliminated Singapore's Julia Daiya Barden and Ashley Kei Yim, 6-1, 6-0.

One more Japanese duo made it to the semifinals as Hitomi Toyama and Rima Yoshida won the battle of unranked teams after outlasting

See LEE on Page 26

## Twin wins for Sonics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

day at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonics XVIII and Sonics XVI prevailed in their respective matches in the boys U18 division of the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Tues-



In the curtain-raiser, the Sonics XVIII coasted to a 51-40 victory versus the Kagman Sparks, while in the second match, the Sonics XVI also

See TWIN on Page 26

## Song, Ren give CNMI Top 2 finish in elims

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Ken Song and Michael Ren kept their undefeated record in the 16-and-under singles event of the 2017 North Pacific Regional Championships after Day 3 of the competition in Guam. Song and Ren finished with similar 4-0 records after last Tuesday's pool play matches and assured the CNMI a 1-2 ranking in Group B going into the quarterfinal round. Ren completed his Day 3 sweep after beating Guam's Marshall Zhang, 7-5, 6-3, at the Tamuning court, while in an earlier duel against Guam's James Hourican, the Commonwealth labored a 7-6 (3) win in the first set before taking an easier 6-2 triumph in the second. Song, who also downed Hourican in the morning match at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Hagatna, matched Ren's perfect mark following a 6-0,



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Ken Song makes a baseline return to Vincent Tudela during their game in the 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

6-0 demolition of the Federated State of Micronesia's Andy Sipps.

In other results, Maria Gregoire is still on top of the standings in girls 14-and-under singles after improving her record to 3-0. She got her third win in as many games last Tuesday against FSM's Paris Panuelo, 6-2, 6-1, to share the top spot with the latter's compatriot Anne Skilling.

The girls 14-and-under singles has a round-robin format and the first finisher in the six-player field will be awarded the title. Gregoire will try to boost her championship bid in the division when she duels Guam's Kaia Malakooti today, while the latter's final game will be this Friday against Skilling.

The girls 16-and-under singles also has a round-robin format with the CNMI's Malika Miyawaki and Grace Choi in a three-way deadlock for the top spot with Guam's Anika Sachdev af-

See SONG on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Sonics XVIII's Jerome Malasarte, right, unloads a running shot against a Kagman Sparks defender during their boys U18 division game in the Diaz youth caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.